

ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc. Mission Statement and Program Overview

MISSION STATEMENT

To engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering and construction through mentoring and to support their continued advancement in the industry.

The main objective is to work with underrepresented students that do not have the guidance and support to help them uncover opportunities for their future.

ACE Mentor's two primary goals are to:

- Create a large, diverse, better-prepared workforce for our industry.
- Assist and guide students as they proceed along their pathways to opportunities in our industry through internships and support.

STATISTICAL PROFILE

- ACE currently operates in 74 affiliates covering 36 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and in more than 200 cities.
- Over 10,000 students and about 4,100 mentors each year.
- ACE has awarded more than \$20 million in scholarships to students.
- ACE Mentor firms have contributed more than \$17.5 million worth of pro bono time.
- 92% of ACE graduates enroll in higher education and two-thirds enter majors linked to the design and construction industry.
- Students come from over 1,100 high schools and 2/3 come from underserved or minority communities.
- Almost 70% of students are minorities and one-third are young women.

PROVEN OUTCOMES

- ACE Mentor Program participants graduate high school at a greater rate than non-ACE participants.
- ACE increases the diversity in architecture, construction and engineering program enrollment.
- Female ACE Mentor Program participants enter college engineering programs at double the national rate of their non-ACE counterparts
- More low-income students participate in the ACE Program than other afterschool programs.



WHY ACE IS IMPORTANT

- Helps student evaluate the integrated construction industry as a career path.
- Construction is one of the largest Industries in United States and employs more than 7 million people.
- The retirement of baby boomers in all parts of the industry is creating a serious workforce shortage so there is great opportunities for the next generation.
- Students work with industry professionals and learn skills including presentation skills, teamwork, organization and many others.
- The program also assists students in the process of exploring post-secondary education.

PROGRAM FORMAT

The program is FREE. Students are assigned to teams led by volunteer mentors from firms representing architects, construction managers, engineers (civil, structural, mechanical, electrical and environmental), owners and trades people. Teams meet after school, usually every other week, for 15 to 16 sessions held in the offices of mentor firms or at the school. Each team selects a project and goes through the entire design process learning various skills along the way. In addition to “office” meetings, teams go on field trips to actual construction sites. At the end of the school year, the teams present their projects to assembled mentors, family and friends, much as an actual design team would present to a client.

For more information, please visit www.acementor.org or send an email to info@acementor.org.