



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF WASHINGTON

*Career Directions for High School Students
in Architecture, Construction and Engineering*



2021 MENTOR FAQ



“ACE WAS A WAY FOR ME TO EXPLORE THE DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES AND FIND THE PLACE WHERE MY SKILLS WOULD BEST SUIT THE JOB.”

**ADAM SCOTT, ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL
2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

WHAT IS ACE?

ACE is an after-school mentor program for high school students interested in learning about career opportunities in architecture, engineering, and construction management.

“ACE WAS THE CLUB I HAD DREAMED OF WHEN I WAS JUST AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT FOOLING AROUND WITH SKETCH UP.”

**ETHAN SCOFIELD, ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL,
2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

The program offers students the opportunity to work with professional volunteer

mentors from design firms in Seattle, Bellevue, and Tacoma. Groups of 20-30 students meet for 7 months (paralleling the school year) to learn about all disciplines involved in the building industry. In 2021, there will be in-person *and* virtual mentoring options.

The Washington program is one of 77 affiliates nationwide. This year we are celebrating our 20th year in Puget Sound! The local affiliate has reached 3,000+ students since inception.

QUICK FACTS

94% of ACE graduates go to college.

Of that **94%**, over **65%** study ACE-related majors.

80% of ACE students agree ACE taught them skills and knowledge such as green design, basic engineering principles, construction cost estimation, and computer-aided design.

In 2021, **19** ACE Seattle graduates received **\$120,000** in scholarships from local firms.



THE MISSION

There are several facets to ACE's mission:

1. Enlighten and motivate students toward architecture, construction, engineering, and related careers.
2. Provide mentoring opportunities for future designers and constructors.
3. Increase the supply of candidates in the design and construction industry, including a specialized focus on diverse/underserved student populations and BIPOC.

THE BENEFITS

The benefits to mentoring with ACE include:

1. Provides an opportunity to “give back” to the community
2. Enhances your company's image, within the industry and also in the community
3. Provides networking opportunities with other mentors
4. Provides community service hours to interns for licensing requirements
5. May provide a connection for your firm to talented and motivated students, and potential future full-time employees.

THE OPPORTUNITY

For 2021-2022, we will have in-person Seattle-, Eastside-, and SouthSound/Tacoma- based teams, as well as a virtual team with more geographic reach. Each is organized similar to a project team, with architectural, mechanical, electrical, structural and civil engineering mentors, plus a general contractor. Various other disciplines are usually added on an “as needed” basis depending on the design project selected by the team (e.g., landscape architects, geotechnical, interior design, etc.).



“ ALL OF MY ACE MENTORS HAVE PUSHED ME TO BE A GOOD TEAM PLAYER, BE A BETTER CONTRIBUTING MEMBER, AND JUST BE THE BEST OF MYSELF. ”

**MARCEL RAMIREZ, O'DEA HIGH SCHOOL,
2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE YEAR?

Several activities take place during ACE:

- » **Mentoring sessions** with students (including in-office teaching sessions, site visits, etc.)
- » **Special events for students** (such as the Kickoff Event after registration and the end-of-year presentations)
- » **Special events for mentors** only (such as orientation and a “happy hour” thank you event)
- » **Industry Leaders Reception** (scholarship event)

During team meetings, students first visit the offices of each design discipline and learn the roles the various fields play in project design. After the first few meetings, the students – under the direction of their mentors – develop an actual project design on paper. ACE’s culminating event is Presentation Night, when the students present their designs to their families, friends, administrators, and other ACE teams.

WHAT SORT OF COMMITMENT IS INVOLVED?

If you and your firm can participate on an ACE team for 2021-2022, you can expect:

- » **Time:** The main commitment a mentor makes is time. The program consists of 15 two-hour sessions from November to May. Sessions typically take place in the early evening, after work hours. In addition to attending virtual group sessions, mentors will need to spend time planning. A recent survey conducted by ACE among past Seattle mentors indicated the majority of mentors spent between 35 and 50 hours total on ACE activities during the 8 months.
- » **COVID:** At this time, the only ACE stipulation is that students wear masks at meetings, unless the hosting firm waives that requirement. Hosting firms may require additional precautions, like temperature-taking or vaccination status, but ACE will not track this.
- » **Leadership:** Each ACE “team” has a designated leader or two co-leaders. If you are interested in leading a team, you will spend additional time for the purpose of being the main point person for the students and coordinating the schedule and activities of the year. Leaders are generally architects, but other disciplines have successfully lead groups in the past.
- » **Meeting space and hosting sessions:** ACE team meetings are hosted at firm offices, so an ideal mentoring firm can provide a conference room for up to 40 people, ancillary meeting rooms, and food. Mentoring firms can decide to serve individually wrapped foods or pizza, depending on current firm policies.
- » **Optional:** Some mentors/firms choose to supply incidental tools and supplies (scales, straightedges, etc.) to the students.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD MENTOR?

Ideal qualities for mentors are enthusiasm and an ability to develop rapport with students.

Young mentors often can relate to the students more readily, but mentors of all ages have been successful. Also, we have found that the closer the diversity of the mentors matches that of the students, the easier it will be to form strong relationships.

There will be several opportunities for mentor training, both online and in person, which can help mentors develop positive mentoring characteristics.



“ MY ACE EXPERIENCE HAS MADE ME VERY EXCITED TO MOVE ON FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND INTO BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS. I CAN’T BEGIN TO SAY HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS PROGRAM AND LOOK FORWARD TO GIVING BACK BY BEING AN ACE MENTOR IN THE FUTURE. ”

**DEREK KERSEY, KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

“ I THINK OF MY TEAM LEADERS AS MY OWN MYTHBUSTERS DUO FOR ARCHITECTURE. BEFORE ACE, I THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT ARCHITECTS DID ALL DAY – SIT AT THEIR DESKS AND DRAW BUILDINGS. BUT MY LEADERS SHOWED ME WHAT THEIR JOBS WERE REALLY LIKE. ARCHITECTS DO SO MUCH MORE THAN DRAWING. ”

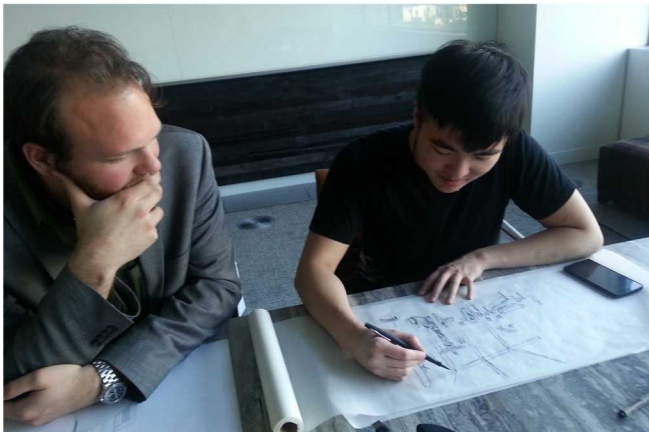
**TIFFANY CHANG, BELLEVUE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL
2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**



WHAT OTHER WAYS CAN I GET INVOLVED WITH ACE?

If you are unable to commit to being an ACE mentor for the full year, there are many other ways you or your firm can get involved:

- » **Lead a Field Trip:** Provide access to a construction site or another interesting destination. Field trips are always in high demand and the students enjoy them tremendously. Transportation, if needed, can be arranged by the chapter.
- » **Give a Seminar:** If you have special knowledge of a subject, perhaps you would consider putting on a “one-time” seminar for an ACE team. Examples of topics that might be of interest are sustainability, steel erection, building information modeling, integrated project design, and more.
- » **Provide an Assembly Space:** A few events, particularly those that involve multiple teams, require a large space, such as a large cafeteria, an auditorium, or other assembly space.
- » **Spread the Word:** Talk to your firm, colleagues, friends, or professional organizations about ACE.
- » **Assist in Student Recruitment:** This involves visiting schools in the areas and giving talks about what you do and the ACE program. We also have a special sub-committee committed to recruiting underserved populations/minorities/BIPOC.
- » **Assist in Mentor Recruitment or Program Planning:** Getting ACE off the ground each year is a big task. We can always use help in this area.
- » **Contribute to our Scholarship Fund:** Seattle ACE students have received more than \$984,000 in scholarships since 2001, with all of those funds coming from local A/E/C firms.



DISCIPLINES REPRESENTED

ACE needs mentors from all corners of the A/E/C industry,

- » Architecture
- » Interior design
- » Landscape design
- » Civil/structural engineering
- » Mechanical engineering
- » Electrical engineering
- » Construction management
- » Plumbing
- » Geotechnical engineering
- » Traffic planning
- » Urban planning
- » Real estate development



"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SEATTLEACE



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM!
@ACEMENTORSEATTLE



FIND US ON LINKEDIN
LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/SEATTLEACE



SUBSCRIBE ON YOUTUBE
SEARCH "ACE MENTOR WASHINGTON"

WHAT FIRMS HAVE MENTORED FOR ACE IN THE PAST?

These firms served as mentors for the 2020-2021 school year:

Arup
BRR Architecture
Bykonen Carter Quinn
CallisonRTKL
Coffman Engineers
CollinsWoerman
Cornerstone General Contractors
Coughlin Porter Lundeen
DCI Engineers
Degenkolb Engineers
Design West Engineering
DPR Construction
For the Arts Consulting
FREIHEIT Architects
FSi Engineers
Gensler
GGLO
Hargis Engineers
Hensel Phelps
HNTB
Hoffman Construction

Howard S. Wright, a Balfour Beatty Company
Hultz/BHU
Hutteball + Oremus Architecture
Integrus Architecture
Katerra
KPFF Consulting Engineers
Lease Crutcher Lewis
LMN Architects
Magnusson Klemencic Associates
MG2
Miller Hull Partnership
Mithun
Monolithic Power Systems
Mortenson
MZA Architecture
NAC Architecture
Notkin a P2S Company
Olson Kundig Architects
OAC Services
PCS Structural Solutions

Rushing
SCJ Alliance
Sellen Construction
Seneca Group
Skanska USA
SMR Architects
Stantec
Suyama Peterson Deguchi
Swenson Say Faget
The Walsh Group
Trane
Turner Construction
Upward
Valley Electric
Venture General Contracting
VIA Architecture
W.G. Clark Construction
Wood Harbinger
ZGF Architects

HOW CAN I JOIN ACE AS A MENTOR?

The ACE season parallels the school calendar, so mentors are recruited in the late summer/early fall in preparation for starting the groups in October. When possible, individuals are encouraged to visit and observe groups in progress during the year to get a better idea of how the program works and to be prepared for the next year. Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a mentor!

CONTACT INFO

MENTOR RECRUITMENT Pete Maslenikov

PHONE 206-494-5461

EMAIL pete.maslenikov@skanska.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Angela Gottula Twining

PHONE 425-750-4522

EMAIL SeattleWA@acementor.org

WEB www.acementor.org/seattle

