ACE Spotlight Awards 2013

Thursday, February 28, 2013

The California Club

Los Angeles, CA

ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

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ACE SPOTLIGHT AWARDS 2013

A GATHERING OF INDUSTRY LEADERS, EDUCATORS, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND FRIENDS IN RECOGNITION OF FIRMS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT DEMONSTRATE AN EXEMPLARY COMMITMENT TO CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS, AND TO SUPPORT THE ANNUAL ACE MENTOR PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE.

ABOUT US

Will there be enough architects, construction managers and engineers to fill the industry's needs ten years from now? The ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc. is working hard to make sure there are. ACE is an acronym for architecture, construction, and engineering.

The program's mission is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in the integrated construction industry through mentoring; and to support their continued advancement in the industry through scholarships and grants.

ACE is a unique partnership among industry professionals — architects, interior designers, landscape architects, mechanical, structural, electrical, environmental and civil engineers, construction managers, college and university representatives, and other professionals from related corporations and professional organizations — who work together to attract young people to their professions.

Industry professionals volunteer to become mentors to high school students in order to introduce them to the professions and encourage them to pursue studies and careers in these fields. In return, the industry get a much-needed boost of new talent.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:30 PM RECEPTION/SILENT AUCTION

6:30 PM WELCOME
Eric Van Aukee
ACE Board Director & 2013 Spotlight Awards Committee Chair

6:30 PM SILENT AUCTION ENDS

6:35 PM INTRODUCTION
Fritz Coleman
Master of Ceremonies

6:40 PM LENNOX HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
Ricardo Zendejas
Mentor Team Leader

Jose Rivas
Faculty Advisor

Raul Duenas
Daniel Navarro
Jocelyne Perdomo
Yajaira Perdomo
Joanna Perdomo
Students

7:00 PM ACE SPOTLIGHT AWARDS PRESENTATION
Chuck Whitaker
ACE Board Chairman
Terry Dooley
ACE Board Director Emeritus

7:20 PM CLOSING REMARKS
Chuck Whitaker
ACE Board Chairman
Board of Directors ACE Mentor Program L.A./O.C.

RECEPTION UNTIL 8:30PM

2012–2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2012-2013 MENTOR TEAMS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Centennial High School, Compton
Michael Wiggins, McCarthy
Ryan McGuire, McCarthy
Vernon Gong, Saiful Bouquet

Downtown LA Combined Team, Los Angeles
Maria Estrada, Swinerton Builders
Andrea Stalker, Steinberg Architects
Laura Basualdo, Degenkolb

Fairfax High School, Los Angeles
Greg McCool, Degenkolb Engineers
Tom Rafferty, Hathaway-Dinwiddie

Franklin High School, Los Angeles
Darrell Fernandez, Parsons Corporation
Amanda Muller, ACCO

Jefferson High School, Los Angeles
Charrisse Johnston, Gensler
Nancy Luu & Jordan Quentin, Hensel Phelps
Greg Kromhout, Gensler

John Marshall High School, Los Angeles
Thai Nguyen, PCL Construction

Lennox Academy, Lennox
Ricardo Zendejas, Clark Construction Group
Lee Ishida, Thornton Tomasetti
Diana Marquez, CSDA Architects

Long Beach Jordan High School, Long Beach
Vernon Southerland, Turner Construction
Jose Rodriguez, Turner Construction

Pasadena Combined Team, Pasadena
Allen Escobedo, KPFF
Kent Kaewwaen, KPFF
Don Barker, Architect

Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica
Anabel Martinez, KTGY Group
Bernice Ngo, DLR Group Architecture

Susan Miller Dorsey High School, Los Angeles
Noah Boro, Turner Construction
Nataka White, ARUP

ORANGE COUNTY

Century High School, Santa Ana
Tom Nusbickel, Architect

Costa Mesa High School, Costa Mesa
Christopher Tindall, McParlane & Associates, Inc.

Hector Godinez High School, Santa Ana
Michael Gonzales, Turner Construction
Joseph Pobanz, Turner Construction

Segerstrom High School, Santa Ana
Robert Smith, Jacobs Global Buildings
Steven Lopez, Jacobs Global Buildings

Valley High School, Santa Ana
Ali Hosseinzadeh, Turner Construction
Alex Montoya, Turner Construction

INLAND EMPIRE

Eisenhower High School, Rialto
Jeff Smith, Skanska USA Civil
Patrice Langevin, HMC Architects

"The ACE program has taught me new skills that will help me in college. Because of ACE, I want to mentor when I graduate from college and excite others about the construction industry."

Angel Ruacho
Dorsey High School

"My thirst for knowledge in the engineering field has been constant from my freshman year of high school when I decided to become an engineer. I am so grateful for the ACE mentoring program because for the four years was in the program I was in contact with engineers and architects and expanding my knowledge constantly."

Marisol Zelaya
Cathedral City High School
(now a junior at Mt. San Antonio College in Civil Engineering)

ARCHITECTURE FIRM OF THE YEAR

AECOM

AECOM is a global provider of professional technical and management support services to a broad range of markets, including transportation, facilities, environmental, energy, water and government. Listed on the New York Stock Exchange, AECOM serves clients in more than 140 countries and has approximately 45,000 employees around the world.

AECOM is a "Keystone Sponsor" of the ACE Mentor Program of America. Since first getting involved with ACE in 2006, AECOM's dedicated employees have helped hundreds of ACE students in Los Angeles, New York, Miami and Houston in areas including mentoring, the coordination of scholarship application process, and providing Inspiring internships for "alumni" while they are in college.

Perhaps most importantly, AECOM has shown students the true meaning of the company's purpose statement: "to create, enhance and sustain the world's built, natural and social environments."

CONSTRUCTION FIRM OF THE YEAR

Clark Construction Group

At Clark Construction Group, community service is an integral part of our culture. The lasting changes we make to the areas in which we live and work go beyond simply building new buildings or renovating old structures. Clark employees volunteer generously with their time, performing hundreds of hours of community service. By providing our time and talents, we also build improvements on a personal level, bettering the lives of our neighbors through efforts large and small.

For over a decade, Clark has fostered a relationship with ACE. Our Western Region has more than 20 current members who have worked with schools such as Costa Mesa High School, John Marshall High School, North Hollywood High School, Lennox Math and Science Academy, San Diego High School, Construction Tech Academy at Kearny Mesa, La Costa Canyon, among others.

Clark employees have served as board members throughout the state, including Division CEO Richard Heim, Senior Vice Presidents Jim McLamb, Lou Palandrani, Alan Petrasek, and Project Executive Fred Case.

At Clark, we strive to make meaningful and lasting improvements in communities for years to come, both in our jobs and outside them. Our work with ACE has provided an environment where Clark can do so, and continue to cultivate our culture of community service.

ENGINEERING FIRM OF THE YEAR

Degenkolb Engineers

Degenkolb Engineers is the nation's oldest and largest earthquake engineering firm, with six offices along the U. S. Pacific Coast.

In 2005, Degenkolb joined the ACE Los Angeles family of mentors when Matt Barnard and Chris Mora joined the Roosevelt High School team. A year later, Barnard and Joe Ramirez of HNTB rebuilt the team at Belmont High School. Since then, Degenkolb has led or co-led what is now a five school team known as the Downtown LA team. Adam Holman and now Laura Basualdo have continued the tradition of Degenkolb co-leadership of that team.

In 2012, Degenkolb expanded its ACE involvement. Greg McCool leads the new Fairfax High School team in Los Angeles, and Daniel Zepeda is a mentor for Eisenhower High School team in Rialto.

Matt Barnard joined the ACE Los Angeles Board of Directors in 2007. His initiatives include five successful "Trades Days." These events at apprenticeship training schools have been critical to introducing our students to career possibilities in the skilled construction trades. Matt is also a founding member of the ACE California Council. The Council fosters cooperation with other affiliates in California and will offer its third annual ACE Summer Camp this July.

MENTOR AWARDS

LORI GUIDRY
John Marshall High School

Lori Guidry has been committed to the ACE Mentor Program in Los Angeles since its inception in 2002. She mentored at John Marshall High School for seven years. She has served on the ACE National Board, and is currently Vice-Chairman of the Board of ACE Los Angeles Metro Area. Lori is very proud that several of her former high school mentees have returned to ACE as mentors and team leaders.

Lori received a degree in Construction Management from the University of Florida. Her early working years were in Florida. In 1996 she joined Irvine-based MBK Construction, overseeing pre-construction for AMC Theaters. Lori is now co-owner and president of Development Industries, Inc. For DI she oversees business development and planning. She has been active in pre-construction planning for the Grand Avenue project in downtown Los Angeles.

DARRELL FERNANDEZ
Franklin High School

Darrell Fernandez joined the ACE Mentor Program at Franklin High School in 2006. In partnership with teacher Rich McCarthy, he has led that mentoring team ever since. His mentors come from a half dozen professional firms.

Darrell earned a degree in Construction Management at Cal Poly Pomona. He and Michele have two daughters, one in college and the other at his alma mater, Crescenta Valley High School. He coached both girls' soccer teams.

Darrell spent his early years with Parsons Corporation in construction on oil and gas projects, and on missile defense work at Vandenberg Air Force Base. He is now in a general management role with Parsons Constructors Incorporated. Darrell gets his greatest satisfaction from ACE when he sees students "blossom" with understanding.

THOMAS R. NUSBICKEL
Century High School

In 2002, Century High in Santa Ana had one of three ACE teams in the Los Angeles Metro area. Tom Nusbickel was there. He has mentored at Century ever since, and has led our team since 2003. They have nurtured over 300 students.

Century is a perennial contender in our All Schools Day competitions. It was a finalist in the 2012 ACE national design competition, with the top museum project. Three students received the award in Washington DC.

Tom was born in Fullerton and earned honors at the Arizona State University. He practiced architecture with Ralph Allen & Partners for 32 years. He has been active in the AIA Orange County chapter, president in 2001. Tom now teaches at Century. He has been married to Sherry for 32 years.

FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

APRIL GIBBS
Valley High School

April Gibbs is an energetic supporter of the ACE Program at Valley High School in Santa Ana, continuing a tradition that began there in 2004. She became Faculty Advisor to ACE in 2010, at about the time she became Higher Education Coordinator at Valley. In that role she is charged with creating a college-oriented culture on campus. She assists students in registering for college entrance and placement exams, applications, financial aid, and scholarships. She also coordinates college outreach events and educational field trips.

Earlier, April had taught sciences (and been volleyball coach) for 11 years. Her education includes a B.S. in Biological Sciences from UCIrvine, and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration at CSUFullerton.

Her favorite ACE event is the annual All-Schools Competition, because of the student camaraderie and enthusiasm it generates.

DEBORAH LEISURE MCCOMAS
Pasadena Team

Debbie McComas has been the lead faculty contact for our Pasadena team since 2007. That team incorporates students from several teams in the area, based in recent years on her Marshall Fundamental Secondary School. She is dedicated to helping students to choose what they want to do with their lives, and learning how to use education to get there.

Debbie grew up in Pasadena and is a graduate of Blair High School. She was a student sports reporter for the *Pasadena Star-News*. She later earned degrees from USC and from Cal State Fullerton.

During her years with the ACE Mentoring team, Debbie has standout memories of team trips. They saw construction progress on the Chinese Gardens at the Huntington Library, and watched the the seismic retrofit and architectural refurbishing of the Pasadena City Hall.

MIKE ZEKE
Long Beach Jordan High School

Mike Zeke has been a key faculty participant for the ACE team at Long Beach Jordan High School since 2007. The team operates in parallel with Jordan's own "A.C.E. Academy".

Mike spent his early years in Pennsylvania, and then moved to California. He served in the U. S. Army and credits that as a maturing experience. He earned a degree in Electrical Engineering at CSU Northridge. Teaching assignments at Jordan High include residential and light commercial construction.

Since the inception of our team, Mike has cooperated with Vernon Southerland of Turner Construction and his mentors from Turner and other firms. A congenial, dedicated teacher, Mike is the "ACE Champion" at Jordan. He is especially proud when students return after graduation with thanks for what they learned, and for the value of that learning to employers.

"I have participated in ACE for 4 years and have really enjoyed it. The program has opened my eyes to the many opportunities a career in construction can bring. Likewise, I have learned presentation skills, team work, time management and group organization, all of which I will use in my career."

Joe Zarasua
Cathedral City High School

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Please join us in congratulating this evening's awardees and thanking the generous sponsors and donors for their contribution to the ACE Mentor Program–Los Angeles and Orange County.

The ACE appreciates the sponsorships, contributions and in-kind services donated to make this second Annual ACE Spotlight Awards a successful fundraising event. The amount raised for scholarships and programs will make a tremendous difference in helping high school students who are inspired to pursue careers in the design and construction professions to follow their dreams and achieve their goals to be a part of our dynamic industry.

This evening we also recognize the exemplary contributions of the firms and individuals who invest in the future of our professions. Without their ongoing commitment to the mission of the ACE Mentor Program, our reach into challenged neighborhood schools would not be possible. They are the ones who make this program great.

A special thank you goes to the members of the 2013 ACE Spotlight Awards Event Committee for their tireless devotion to planning and executing an event that would be worthy of your support and of the ACE Mentor Program mission.

Eric Van Aukee Perkins+Will / Event Committee Chair
Paulette Dallas ACE Mentor Los Angeles
Terry Dooley ACE Board Director Emeritus
Lori Guidry Development Industries, Inc.
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Ray Swartz tk1sc
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to this year's award recipients and THANKS for your hard work and commitment to service and guidance!

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FRITZ COLEMAN
NBC / Master of Ceremonies

Fritz Coleman is NBC4's weathercaster on the weekday editions of "Channel 4 News," airing at 5, 6 and 11 p.m. A Southern California broadcasting icon, Coleman is well known for his sense of humor and extensive knowledge of weather. He joined NBC4 in February 1982, as the weekend weathercaster, and moved up to weekdays in June 1984.

Coleman has been named "Best Weathercaster" in nearly every major paper in Southern California, including the Orange County Register (Critic's Choice Pool), the San Bernardino Sun (Readers Poll) and four times in the Los Angeles Daily News (Readers Poll).

Coleman devotes much of his free time to charitable activities and frequently organizes evenings of entertainment for local service and civic organizations, as well as serving as master of ceremonies for dozens of Southern California community events. He has won a number of awards and honors for his dedication to community service. In 2004, he won two Humanitarian of the Year Awards – one from Shelter Partnership and the other from the California Hospital Medical Center. The City of Los Angeles named Coleman a "Treasure of Los Angeles" in 1999, and the United States House of Representatives gave him the Humanitarian of the Year Award for his fundraising efforts on behalf of the American Red Cross. Coleman has also been honored by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Salvation Army for his long-time commitment to the organization and his efforts as Christmas Fundraising Chairman and for chairing the annual Fritz Coleman Fair Weather Golf Tournament.

A long-time stand-up comic, Coleman has performed at The Improvisation, The IceHouse and other Southern California comedy clubs. He has utilized his humor in a number of series and specials that have aired on NBC4 over the years including "What a Week" (1990 – 1991), "It's Fritz" (1988-1990), "Fritz and Friends" (Special) and "The Perils of Parenting" (Special). He received four Los Angeles area Emmy Awards for his work on the NBC4 comedy specials and series.

Coleman has written, produced and starred in three one-man plays. His first production "It's Me! Dad!" won the coveted 1997 Artistic Directors Award. A humorous and touching account of what happens when a "baby boomer" tries to recount his own life for his young children, the play shows how the father comes to grips with the passage of time and the skeletons in his own closet. The production also aired successfully on public television in Los Angeles.

"The Reception," Coleman's second play, is an insightful and hilarious look at relationships found at an imaginary wedding reception - the bride's second marriage -- the groom's third. His most recent play, "Tonight at 11!" is an insider's look at a typical local newscast. A rollercoaster ride between funny and poignant, Daily Variety called it, "surprising, incisive and powerful."

Coleman moved to Los Angeles in 1980 from Buffalo, New York, where he worked as an on-air radio personality. Prior to that, he was a disc jockey and radio talk show host at various stations throughout the country. From 1980 until he joined NBC4 in 1982, he worked as a stand-up comic at various clubs throughout Southern California. He has also made a number of appearances on the "Tonight Show" and other non-scripted and scripted television programs.

Originally from Philadelphia, Coleman attended Salem College in West Virginia and Temple University in Philadelphia where he studied radio, television and film. Coleman is an avid runner, rollerblader and skier. He lives in the San Fernando Valley and has two sons and a daughter.

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