ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING
NORTHEAST FL

2025-2026



ANNUAL REPORT

ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE LEADERS

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we begin celebrating 20 years of ACE Mentor Program programming in Northeast Florida, we are proud to reflect on another year of growth, innovation, and impact. What began as a vision to introduce students to careers in architecture, construction, and engineering has evolved into a thriving program that continues to transform lives and strengthen our industry's future workforce.

During the 2025-2026 program year, ACE Northeast Florida served more than 260 students from 13 locations, supported by 85 dedicated industry mentors. Together, these volunteers provided weekly mentoring, career guidance, and hands-on learning experiences that helped students explore pathways into the design and construction industry.

This year, we launched several exciting new initiatives designed to deepen student engagement and strengthen connections with our ACE alumni. New programs included the Gingerbread Design-Build Competition, the Build-a-Bench Day, and an expanded alumni engagement initiative featuring professional networking events, lunch & learn sessions, and alumni arcade night. We also expanded student access to technology by providing laptops with industry-related software and Wi-Fi routers to ensure participants can fully engage in ACE programming and opportunities.

At the same time, we continued to deliver the high-impact experiences that have become hallmarks of our program. Students participated in our Program Kickoff & College Tour, Technology Bootcamp, Weekly Mentoring Sessions, Trades Day, and Externship opportunities. ACE also organized eight Construction Site and Industry Office visits, giving students firsthand exposure to the wide range of careers available in the built environment.

Our Design Competition continues to thrive. This year, 26 regional teams developed project proposals and presented their work at our Year-End Event. Through our expanding trades-focused programming, students also constructed 28 benches as part of our regional Trades Construction competition, showcasing both technical skills and teamwork. Additionally, eight national teams



ACE summer interns tour Haskell | July 2025

submitted projects in the prestigious Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) Design and Construction Competition.

Supporting students beyond high school remains central to our mission. This year, ACE Northeast Florida awarded $82,500 in scholarships to 26 graduating seniors and three junior mentors. We also continued to expand educational pathways through our partnership with Florida A&M University, creating additional opportunities through the ACE to FAMU Scholarship program.

Our success wouldn't be possible without the support of our Diamond, Platinum, Gold Silver, and Bronze industry partners. Our Premium partnership with Brasfield & Gorrie remains strong and continues to be instrumental in helping us implement innovative programming while sustaining our multi-year scholarship commitments. We are also grateful for our continued collaboration with North Florida's National Organization of Minority Architects (NoFlo NOMA) Project Pipeline, which helps introduce students to architecture and design careers while expanding access and opportunity for underrepresented youth.

This year, we were especially proud to celebrate two nationally recognized volunteers whose dedication exemplifies the impact of ACE mentorship. Their leadership

and service reflect the very best of our ACE community and the transformative power of mentorship.

- Monique Brown was honored as ACE National's Outstanding Mentor of the Year, recognizing her exceptional commitment to guiding and inspiring students.
- Kim Ebbers was recognized as Outstanding School Champion, honoring her steadfast advocacy and support for ACE programming. ACE remains committed to preparing the next generation of architects, engineers, constructors, and skilled trades professionals. The achievements of this year demonstrate the power of mentorship, industry engagement, and community partnership. Together, we are building brighter futures for students and a stronger workforce for our region.

As we look ahead, we invite all of you to join us in January as we celebrate the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida's milestone 20-year anniversary. We look forward to honoring the students, mentors, partners, and supporters who have made two decades of impact possible and celebrating the bright future that lies ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida.

Sincerely,



Judy Deshler

Judy Deshler, Board Chair



Nicole Eubanks

Nicole Eubanks, Executive Director

LOCATIONS

Atlantic Coast High School
Baker County High School
Bartram Trail High School
Bishop Kenny High School
Creekside High School
Home School Team
Middleburg High School
Nease High School
Orange Park High School
Paxon School for Advanced Studies
Pedro Menendez High School
Riverside High School
Tocoi Creek High School

MENTORED

269

ACE NEFL STUDENTS

ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NORTHEAST FL

Founded during the 2006-2007 school year, the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida (ACE NEFL) helps high school students explore potential careers in architecture, construction and engineering. Through the program, mentors from local industry professional firms meet with students once a week for 18-20 weeks. During these sessions, students work in teams to create practical solutions for "real-world" projects. It's an effective way for students to experience the reality of what architects, contractors and engineers do during a typical working day.

The 2025-2026 program year was a success both in terms of students served and donations raised from industry partners, individuals and foundations. ACE NEFL increased our reach to 13 locations, serving 269 students weekly and awarded $82,000 to 24 high school seniors and 3 junior mentors.

About ACE

Founded in 1994, the ACE Mentor Program of America (ACE) is a no-cost after-school program that connects high school students with professionals in architecture, construction, engineering and the skilled trades. Today, ACE serves students through affiliate programs across the United States and Canada.

ACE is one of the nation's fastest-growing workforce development programs, serving more than 14,000 students annually from over 1,800 high schools. More than 70% of students identify as people of color, about 40% identify as young women and more than 40% of ACE seniors entering college are first-generation scholars.

More than 5,000 volunteer industry professionals mentor students through hands-on design and construction projects that introduce them to careers across the built environment.

Last year, ACE awarded more than $4.8 million in scholarships, bringing total scholarship support to nearly $42 million since its founding. More than 90% of ACE alumni continue on to college or skilled trades training, while 70% pursue an industry-related field of study. Through Summer Workplace Experiences, Summer Camps and the Transformative Partner Program, ACE helps prepare an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 alumni to enter the AEC workforce each year.

STAFF & COMMITTEES

Our board members and volunteers are organized into the following committees. Committee chairs, board members and staff are listed on the following page.

- Advisory Council
- Alumni Council
- Education Committee
- Finance Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Governance Committee
- Mentor Committee
- Scholarship Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Trades Committee



Board members, mentors and alumni attended at the South Regional Conference in Neptune Beach, FL in June 2026.

2025-2026 STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

STAFF

Nicole Eubanks | Executive Director
Lael Lloyd | Grant Writer
Alejandro Duarte | Graphic Designer

OFFICERS

Judy Deshler | Chair | The Haskell Company
David Yencarelli | Vice Chair | Tenax Electrical
Amanda Mullins | Treasurer & Finance Chair | Pivot CPAs
Tracey Friley | Secretary | LeVino Jones

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lauren Atwell | Trades Chair | Petticoat-Schmitt Civil Contractors
Josh Barth | Auld & White Constructors
Carl Burdick | Scholarship Chair | LS3P Associates
Ramsey Grissom | Clay Shoot Co-Chair | Charles Perry Partners, Inc.
Robert Jackson | The Haskell Company
Nick Kalafatis | Brasfield & Gorrie
Amanda Polematidis | Year-End Event Chair | Hansen Professional Services
Chris Sheperd | Batson-Cook
Craig Scott | PR Chair | Scorpio
Kevin Shields | Fundraising Chair | Stellar
Tom Smith | W.W. Gay Mechanical
Eric Snyder | Flow Architecture Studio
Ryan Soots | Meyer-Najem

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jeff Auld | RS&H
Olivia Frick | PCL Construction
Tom Grogan | Retired
Emily Hubbard | TLC Engineering Solutions
Kimberly Hansen | Baptist Health
Crystal Markley | USACE
Denise Ramsey | The Haskell Company
Ryan Sitnik | Gilbane Building Company
Michelle Tappouni | Governance Chair | Tappouni Construction
Jacob Thurlow | Education Chair | The Haskell Company
Karin Tucker Hoffman | First Coast Chapter of ABC

CTE COUNCIL

Nyree Bowen-Tennant | Duval County Public Schools
Victoria Giuffrida | University of North Florida
Peggy Hand | Baker County School District
Emily Harrison | St. Johns County School District
Kelly Mosley | Clay County Schools

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Lauren Castillo | Alumni Council Co-Chair | UNF Engineering Student
Bernice Fayak | Clay Shoot Co-Chair | Baptist Health
Dan Sandler | Mentor Chair | The Haskell Company
Ledarius Smith | Alumni Council Co-Chair | RS&H

EDUCATION

BY THE NUMBERS

269 STUDENTS	**85** MENTORS	**29** SCHOLARSHIPS	**8** FIELD TRIPS
$82K AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS	**215+** SESSIONS	**106** SPONSORS	**13** LOCATIONS

2025-26 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The ACE program enjoyed a successful 2025-2026. We served 269 students across Northeast Florida, including 134 students from under-represented groups.

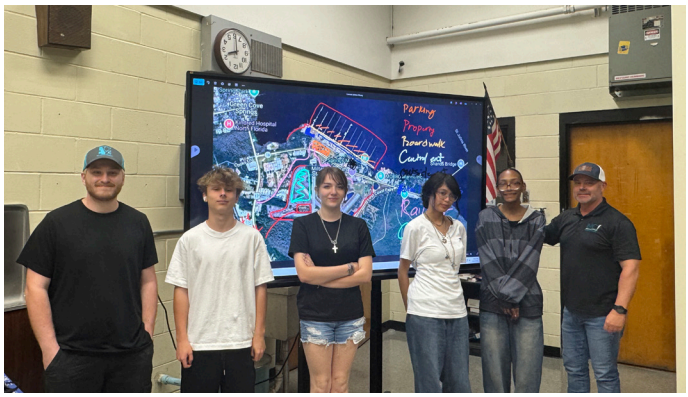
Students met weekly at 13 locations: Atlantic Coast High School (HS), Baker County HS, Bartram Trail HS, Bishop Kenny HS, Creekside HS, Middleburg HS, Nease HS, Orange Park HS, Paxon School for Advanced Studies, Pedro Menendez HS, Riverside HS, Tocoi Creek HS and RS&H hosts our Home School Team.

This year's regional request for proposal (RFP) competition had three topics to choose from and ***26 teams competed***. Eight teams also submitted their projects for the CIRT National Design Competition.

- Modular Classroom (8 teams)
- Animal Shelter & Adoption Center (9 teams)
- Community Park (9 teams)
- CIRT National Design and Construction (8 teams)

ENGAGING STUDENTS

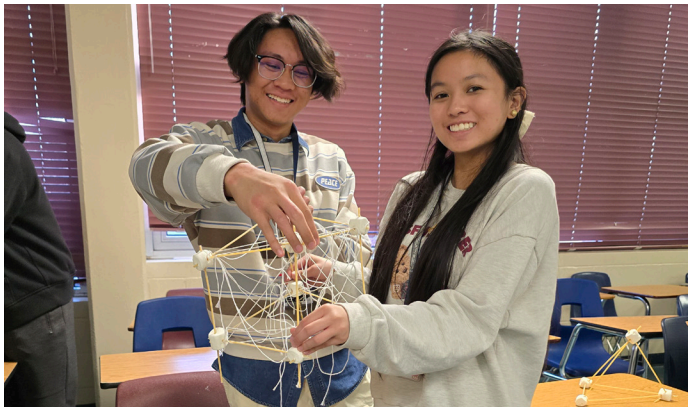
Our program is open to Northeast Florida high school students who have the curiosity and drive to learn about a career in design and construction — from contracting and engineering to architecture and landscaping. Currently, we serve students in Baker, Clay, Duval and St. Johns counties. To learn more about us and how to encourage a student to participate, visit our website: www.acementor.org/northeast-fl



ACE Session | Middleburg HS



ACE Session | Pedro Menendez HS



ACE Session | Paxon SAS

KICK-OFF EVENT

The program launched on December 16th at the University of North Florida (UNF) with a Kick-Off Event featuring a Gingerbread Design-Build Competition and lunch. More than 110 students attended the event which also featured a campus tour of the UNF College of Computing, Engineering and Construction programs, further sparking student interest in the industry.

Gingerbread Competition Winners | Bartram Trail HS





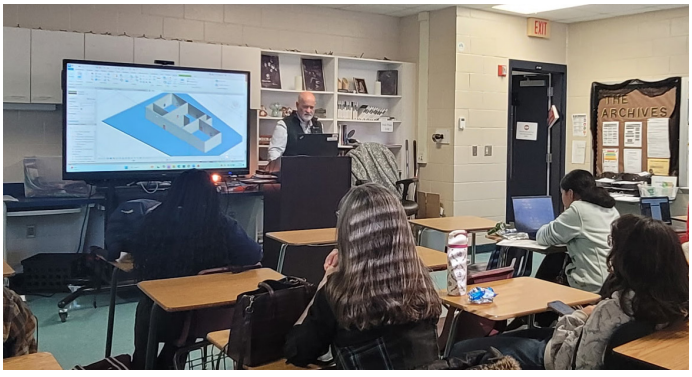
Gingerbread Design-Build Competition at UNF



UNF Tour | Riverside HS



ACE Session | Orange Park HS



Tech Bootcamp led by Kevin Davenport | Paxon SAS

TECHNOLOGY BOOTCAMP GOES MOBILE

To increase accessibility and participation, our Technology Bootcamp evolved from a single Saturday event into a mobile learning model with mentor, Kevin Davenport traveling to multiple locations throughout the community. This transition helped remove common barriers to participation, including transportation challenges, work schedules, and other personal commitments that often prevent students from attending centralized events.

To further support equitable access, we provided laptops preloaded with industry-relevant software, ensuring participants had the tools needed to engage in hands-on learning experiences. Additionally, Wi-Fi modems were supplied to locations requiring enhanced internet connectivity, allowing all participants to fully access digital resources and training opportunities regardless of their local technology infrastructure.

CONSTRUCTION SITE VISITS

ACE students had the opportunity to visit a variety of active job sites and companies, participating in tours at the following locations:

- Baptist Downtown Campus with Batson Cook
- Eastside Elementary School with Gilbane
- Fire Station 39 with Auld & White Constructors
- Surf Park at Ponte Vedra Country Club with Brasfield & Gorrie
- LS3P office
- RS&H office



Fire Station 38 with Auld & White Constructors



Ponte Vedra Country Club with Brasfield & Gorrie



RS&H Office Visit | Bishop Kenny HS

NATIONAL BOARD MEETING



Denise Ramsey, Monique Brown and Nicole Eubanks | ACE National Board Meeting

Monique Brown was recognized as both ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida's Outstanding **Mentor of the Year** and the 2026 ACE National–ENR Outstanding Mentor, an extraordinary honor that reflects her exceptional commitment to students and the ACE mission. Monique joined Founder Denise Ramsey and Executive Director Nicole Eubanks in Washington, D.C., for the ACE National Board Meeting and the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) Design and Construction Competition, where she was recognized alongside six mentors from across the country. Her national recognition celebrates the lasting impact she has made by inspiring, mentoring, and empowering the next generation of architecture, construction, and engineering professionals.

YEAR-END EVENT

The ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida wrapped up its student programming with a Year-End Event on April 24th at the Schultz Center. The celebration highlighted:

- **Student Projects** – Student teams presented their projects in a competition for the best proposal, best trades construction, best presentation and best overall approach. The projects showcased their innovation and technical skills and included a bench construction to highlight the trades component of the project.
- **Special Recognition** – Kim Ebbers with our Home School Team received national honors as the Exemplary School Champion, and Paxon SAS Mentor, Monique Brown was awarded Outstanding Mentor from both ACE National and our affiliate.
- **Scholarships** – We awarded scholarships totaling $82,500 to 26 deserving seniors and 3 junior mentors pursuing careers in architecture, construction and engineering. These scholarships are made possible through corporate giving at the platinum, diamond, gold and silver level.
- **Volunteer Appreciation** – The event closed with a heartfelt appreciation of our mentors, teachers, volunteers and parents in the vital role they each play in supporting ACE student success.



Outstanding Mentor | Monique Brown (left)



Exemplary School Champion | Kim Ebbers (with flowers)



Student presentations | Orange Park HS



Event volunteers



Raffle Basket Donor Ledarius Smith and Winner



Bench Construction Judging



ACE Cafe Volunteers

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

A total of 26 regional teams presented to jurors alongside eight national CIRT teams on April 24, 2026, at the Schultz Center. The Trades Bench competition featured 28 teams that designed, built and presented their benches. The day's highest honor, Best Overall Approach, combining proposal, bench and presentation scores, was awarded to Atlantic Coast High School for its Animal Shelter project.

Animal Shelter



Best Proposal | Atlantic Coast HS



Best Presentation | Atlantic Coast HS

Community Park



Best Proposal | Home School Team



Best Presentation | Creekside HS

Modular Classroom



Best Proposal | Bishop Kenny HS



Best Presentation | Pedro Menendez HS

Best Bench Construction: Creekside HS



BEST OVERALL: Atlantic Coast HS



SCHOLARSHIPS

ACE NEFL proudly awarded 2025-2026 scholarships to a record number of 26 high school seniors and three junior mentors. Students from Clay, Duval and St. Johns County high schools showcased outstanding work ethic and strong connections with industry professionals. The total amount awarded was $82,500, including one Brasfield & Gorrie multi-year scholarship.






STUDENT NAME	SCHOOL	INTENDED MAJOR	SCHOLARSHIP	CORPORATE SPONSOR
Sophia D.	Bishop Kenny	Architecture	$10,000	Brasfield & Gorrie
Cassie G.	Creekside	Civil Engineering	$5,000	ACE Founders
Margaret H.	Creekside	Mechanical Engineering	$5,000	Haskell
Saylor D.	Creekside	Industrial/System Engineering	$5,000	Haskell
Sophia D.	Creekside	Mechanical Engineering	$5,000	Brasfield & Gorrie
Ava J.	Creekside	Civil Engineering	$5,000	ABC Women's Council
Logan K.	Nease	Mechanical Engineering	$5,000	Brasfield & Gorrie
Kendra M.	Creekside	Mechanical Engineering	$2,500	The Players Red Coats
Jacob G.	Creekside	Civil Engineering	$2,500	FHEA
Miguel F.	Bishop Kenny	Mechanical Engineering	$2,500	NEFBA
Jazlyn F.	Orange Park	Civil Engineering	$2,500	Clay Electric
Katherine S.	Bartram Trail	Mechanical Engineering	$2,500	Collins Construction
Matthew M.	Creekside	Mechanical Engineering	$2,500	Collins Construction
Jonathan P.	Paxon	Mechanical Engineering	$2,500	Monique Brown Outstanding Mentor
Garrett S.	Bishop Kenny	Mechanical Engineering	$1,500	CPPI
Peter D.	Bishop Kenny	Construction Management	$1,500	ABC First Coast
Alexander C.	Nease	Civil Engineering	$1,500	Tritt & Associates
Harrison E.	Home School	Architecture	$1,500	Baptist Health
Vincent L.	Nease	Mechanical Engineering	$1,500	S. David Painting
Allison F.	Bartram Trail	Architecture	$1,500	Baker Design Build
Carson W.	Nease	Civil Engineering	$1,500	Whiting Turner
Shaniyaa B.	Paxon	Architecture	$1,500	CPPI & FAMU
Jesus N.	Atlantic Coast	Electrical Engineering	$1,000	Meyer Najem
Kashish M.	Bartram Trail	Architecture	$1,000	Meyer Najem
Dylan M.	Orange Park	Mechanical Engineering	$1,000	Clay Electric Foundation
Jaliyah M.	Riverside	Civil Engineering	$1,000	ASCE
JUNIOR MENTORS				
Lauren Castillo	University of North Florida	Civil Engineering	$3,000	Gilbane
Russell Odion	University of North Florida	Civil Engineering	$3,000	ACE Mentor Program of NEFL
Mia Decker	University of North Florida	Civil Engineering	$3,000	ACE Mentor Program of NEFL
			$82,500	

FUNDRAISING

During the 2025-2026 program, our ACE Affiliate achieved 111% of its fundraising goal, raising funds for scholarships and programming through corporate and personal donations, fundraising events and raffles, grants and online donation campaigns.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

A listing of our Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze corporate sponsors is provided on the next page. These sponsorships are key to providing scholarships to our students.

GRANTS

ACE NEFL is proud to be a grant recipient from the following organizations. We will use these funds to provide mentoring, scholarship and college/trade opportunities for our students.

- ACE Mentor Program of America / Black & Decker Makers Grant
- A.L. Lewis Fund through Community Foundation of Northeast Florida
- Clay Electric Foundation Operation Round Up
- Community Foundation of Northeast Florida
- Brasfield & Gorrie Employee Match through Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
- Publix Charities
- The Players Championship Red Coats' Community Grant
- Reinhold Foundation Celebrate Clay Awards



Clay Electric Foundation Grant

EVENTS

The following events contributed to our fundraising goals. The events were supported by our corporate sponsors, industry partners, school champions, mentors, parents and students.

- Clay Shoot Fundraiser and Raffle
- Brasfield & Gorrie | Cowford Invitational Golf Tournament and Impact Week Pickleball Tournament
- Kickoff Event and College Tour
- Trades Day
- Build-a-Bench Day
- Construction Site and Office Visits
- Year-End Event and Raffle



Thank you to all our sponsors!

CAMPAIGNS

For the Annual Day of Giving that follows Thanksgiving, known as #GivingTuesday, we encouraged individual supporters and parents to donate by Sponsoring an ACE Student. Their tax-deductible donations helped us work toward our $3,000 goal and provide students and mentors with supplies for weekly mentoring and hands-on projects, transportation to field trips and much more.

GIVINGTUESDAY

DONATE NOW

ACE NEFL remains committed to serving students and guiding them towards a career path that they love. With your help, we will continue to change the lives of Northeast Florida youth.

PREMIER SPONSOR

BRASFIELD & GORRIE

DIAMOND SPONSORS

HASKELL
ARCHITECTURE • ENGINEERING • CONSTRUCTION

COLLINS
CONSTRUCTION & COMPANY

ABC Associated Builders and Contractors Florida First Coast

PLATINUM SPONSORS

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida Founders Scholarship

BAKER Design Build

BAPTIST HEALTH

CPPI

Florida Healthcare Engineering Association

MEYER NAJEM

nefba Northeast Florida Builders Association

S. DAVID & CO., INC.

Gilbane

Tritt & Associates, P.A.
Attorneys at Law
Construction Law and Business Litigation

United Way of Northeast Florida

WT WHITING-TURNER

GOLD SPONSORS

ASCE FLORIDA SECTION Jacksonville Branch

BREAKING GROUND CONTRACTING

FORESIGHT

CARLTON CONSTRUCTION

stellar TAKING SOLUTIONS FURTHER

PIVOT CPAs

mattamyHOMES

SMITH BROTHERS PLASTERING COMPANY, INC.

ROBINS & MORTON
Building With Purpose

SILVER SPONSORS

ABERCROMBIE
Specialty Contractors

CSIGeo
Geotechnical · CMT · CEI

ECS

FSEA Florida Structural Engineers Association

BRONZE SPONSORS

TLC ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS

smps North Florida

CLAY SHOOT FUNDRAISER

ACE Northeast Florida hosted the 5th Annual Sporting Clay Fundraiser on September 25, 2025, raising almost $73,550 for Northeast Florida students. The event and team sponsors of this event held at Jacksonville Clay Target Sports included:

- A.A. Pittman & Sons Concrete Co.
- Abercrombie, Inc.
- ADS StormTech
- Allstate Steele
- Auld & White Constructors
- Batson-Cook
- Brasfield & Gorrie
- Building Envelope Consulting Group
- Campbell Plumbing
- CCS
- Cerris Construction
- Charles Perry Partners, Inc.
- Crabtree Construction
- DANIS
- Fabco Metal Products
- FASTSIGNS®
- Ferber Sheet Metal Works
- Foresight Construction Group
- Gardner
- Gilbane Building Co.
- H. Stephen Jones & Associates, Inc.
- The Haskell Company
- Hollandsworth Construction
- IMC Electrical
- Kirbyco Builders
- Lockton
- LS3P
- Meadows & Ohly
- Meyer Najem Construction, LLC
- Miller Electric Company
- Owen Electric
- PCL Construction
- Petticoat-Schmitt
- Robins & Morton
- Ruppert Landscape
- Smith Brothers
- Spectra Contract Flooring
- Stellar Group, Inc.
- Thomas May Construction
- Touchton Plumbing
- W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, Inc.
- Wilson Electric



Alumni Speaker | Alex Anderson with ETM





Clay Shoot Co-Chair Ramsey Grissom welcomes participants and kicks off the tournament.



Clay Shoot Tournament Champion | Allstate Steel Company, Inc.

BRASFIELD & GORRIE

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida is honored to be Brasfield & Gorrie's primary fundraising beneficiary for 2024-2026. During the 2025 giving season, Brasfield & Gorrie (B&G) demonstrated its extraordinary commitment to our mission through Impact Week, a community Pickleball Tournament and an employee matching campaign with the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham. Together, these efforts generated critical support to expand opportunities for students exploring careers in architecture, construction and engineering.

The partnership reached another milestone when Brasfield & Gorrie's Annual Cowford Invitational Golf Tournament generated an extraordinary $125,000 contribution to support our mission. This investment provide critical resources to strengthen and expand our programming, creating greater opportunities for Northeast Florida students to explore careers in architecture, construction and engineering.

Beyond financial support, Brasfield & Gorrie's Jacksonville team demonstrates an exceptional commitment to ACE through volunteerism and leadership. Employees serve as mentors across multiple program locations, lead on our Board and committees, and dedicate countless hours to events and student experiences. Their partnership exemplifies how industry engagement can shape the future workforce and inspire the next generation of leaders.



Tournament Volunteers | ACE volunteers helped turn a day on the course into student opportunities.



Ring Toss | Golfers take on the ACE Ring Toss challenge.





Brasfield & Gorrie welcomes golfers before the tournament begins.



Impact Week | ACE and B&G kick off Impact Week with breakfast at the Jacksonville office.

MENTORS

Thank you to our 2025-2026 mentors and the firms that support their commitment to ACE Northeast Florida. Each week, mentors inspire and guide students as they work on team projects. As our program grows, so does the need for more mentors. Register at https://app.acementor.org/login or contact Mentor Chair Dan Sandler at dan.sandler@haskell.com.

ATLANTIC COAST

* Francesco Portelos, Atlantic Coast High School
* Joseph Rawlins, Her Hope Behavioral Health
* Ryan Taylor, Scorpio
* Lauren Castillo, UNF Student
Spencer Duval, Cerris Builders
Summer Eschliman, Miller Electric Company
Amanda Polematidis, Hanson Professional Services

BAKER COUNTY

* Mark Cramer, Baker County High School
* Peggy Hand, Baker County High School
* David Brewin, Gilbane Building Company

BARTRAM TRAIL

* Patrick Flahive, Bartram Trail High School
* Charles Tofferi, Petticoat Schmitt
Todd DiBacco, Caddell Construction Co., (DE) LLC
Chelsea Marajh, NAVFAC Southeast

BISHOP KENNY

* Allison Gallup, Bishop Kenny High School
* David Schoening, Haskell
* Ramsey Grissom, Charles Perry Partners, Inc.
Josh Anderson, Kasper Architects + Associates
Robert Anhalt, ABB Inc.
Josh Barth, Auld & White Constructors
Carina Brillhart, Charles Perry Partners, Inc.
Jim Klepzig, Auld & White Constructors
* Russell Odion, DRMP inc
Jeffrey Proud
James Smith, Lockton Companies

CREEKSIDE

* Jeramy Brux, Creekside High School
* Jacob Thurlow, Haskell
* Alex Anderson, England-Thims & Miller, Inc.
Taylor Brislawn, Taylormade Interiors
* Lauren Castillo, UNF Student
Kevin Davenport, Black & Veatch
Mia Decker, England-Thims & Miller, Inc.
Mike Dillon, Batson-Cook Construction
Bub LeNoir, Retired
Bet Lentz, Haskell
Eric Prendergast, Brasfield & Gorrie
Dan Sandler, Haskell
Stephen Young, England-Thims & Miller, Inc.

HOME SCHOOL TEAM

* Kimberly Ebbers, Ebbers Academy
* Michael Petrone, TLC Engineering Solutions
Serene Bailey
Fred DeWitt, DCCI Jax
Jenny Ferman, Superior Construction
* Daniela Gomez, LS3P
Patricia Keller
Alexandra Lauderdale, RS&H
Eric Lentz, Mayo Clinic
Arthur Mastronicola, FDOT
Wayne Petrone, Retired
Madison Powers, Legacy Engineering
* Ledarius Smith, RS&H

MIDDLEBURG

* Cade Robbins, Middleburg High School
* James Rowland, American Electrical Contracting
* David Harp, IMC Electrical
Joseph Twichell, Miller Electric Company

NEASE

* Jamie Combs, Nease High School
* Bergman Arias , Nease High School
Jeff Auld, RS&H
Scott Baron, Gilbane Building Company
Josh Barth, Auld & White Constructors
Joe Coughlin, Baptist Health
Tom Grogan, Retired
Amanda Polematidis, Hanson Professional Services
Tom Smith, W.W. Gay
Cristina Stover, Baptist Health
Jacob Thurlow, Haskell



ORANGE PARK

* Mary Ellen DeMarco, Orange Park High School
* * Michael Nee, Haskell
* Chandler Evers, AJAX Building
Tamara Henderson, Haskell
* Christopher Osborne, Prime AE Group
Lillian Prins, NAVFAC Southeast

PAXON

* Michael Morgan, Paxon School for Advanced Studies
* Tracey Friley, Dzyneconcepts, LLC
* Eric Snyder, Gresham Smith
Monique Brown, NAVFAC Southeast
Amy Hoffer, NAVFAC Southeast
Christopher Place, NAVFAC Southeast
Alison Tulloss, NAVFAC Southeast

PEDRO MENENDEZ

* Howard Nunamaker, Pedro Menendez High School
* Kevin McEwen, Stellar Group, Inc
* Thomas Handley, Student at St. Johns River College
Kayla Lakatos, Gilbane Building Company
David Mathias, Retired
Matt Pena, Russell Rowland
David Podmeyer, Retired
Rich Pritt, Charles Perry Partners, Inc.

RIVERSIDE

* Monique Bell, Riverside High School
* Robert Jackson, Haskell
* Crystal Markley, US Army Corps of Engineers
Kierstin Beaumont, Haskell
Sophia Bryant, US Army Corps of Engineers
Janel LeGard, Haskell
Quayshaun Marshall, Haskell
* Ledarius Smith, RS&H

TOCOI CREEK

* CJ Grudzinskas, Tocoi Creek High School
* Kenneth Wilson, Mayo Clinic
Kevin Davenport, Black & Veatch
Dan Jordan, Owen Electric Company, Inc.
Bonnie McKesson, Kitchen Design Gallery
Richard Williams, Spectra Contract Flooring

* School Champion
* Lead Mentor
* Junior Mentor

TRADES

5TH ANNUAL TRADES DAY

On February 5, 2026, ACE hosted the 5th Annual Trades Day at Ring Power in St. Augustine. Students spent the day engaging with the following local companies and apprenticeship programs while exploring careers across the trades industry. Through hands-on demonstrations and conversations with industry professionals, the event offered an incredible opportunity for students to experience the world of trades and better understand the career pathways available to them.

- ABC First Coast
- Abercrombie, Inc.
- ACME
- Auld & White Constructors
- Barber & Associate, Inc.
- Brasfield & Gorrie
- Construction Ready
- Electrical Training Alliance (NJATC)
- EMCOR
- Haskell
- Miller Electric Company
- NEFBA
- NUCA
- Owen Electric
- Petticoat-Schmitt
- Pye Barker Fire Sprinkler
- Ring Power
- SMART Local 435
- Stellar Group, Inc.
- Superior Construction
- T Conlan Roofing
- Trinity Metal
- Tulsa Welding School Jacksonville
- UA Local 234 / JATT
- W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, Inc.







Exploring equipment, technology and innovation gave students a new perspective on the many possibilities within the AEC industry.

BUILD-A-BENCH DAY

The Trades Committee introduced Build-a-Bench Day to provide additional support and hands-on learning opportunities for students participating in the annual Construction Trades project. Hosted by Petticoat-Schmitt, the event brought together industry professionals and volunteers who donated their time, tools, materials and expertise to guide students through the bench-building process. Through this collaborative experience, students gained practical construction skills, built confidence and completed a project they take pride in.

Build-a-Bench Day exemplifies the power of community partnerships in creating meaningful workforce development experiences and inspiring the next generation of skilled trades professionals.



ALUMNI COUNCIL

The ACE Alumni Council continues to strengthen alumni engagement under the leadership of Council Co-Chairs, Ledarius Smith and Lauren Castillo. Over the past year, the Council successfully hosted several events designed to foster connection, professional growth, and continued involvement within the ACE community.

This year, the Council saw encouraging participation, with over 16 local alumni attending events, demonstrating growing interest and engagement in the alumni network. The Council remains committed to building a vibrant and connected alumni community that supports both personal and professional development.

Looking ahead, the Council is focused on expanding its reach and impact through three key initiatives.

- Develop a robust and consistent communication system to better inform and engage alumni.
- Maintain engagement through quarterly events.
- Increase alumni participation in the Transformative Partner Program (TPP).



Alumni networking gathering at BJ's.



Lunch & Learn session focused on understanding job benefits.



Alumni Arcade Night social.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The PR Committee develops marketing and communications that increase awareness of ACE Northeast Florida, strengthen engagement and support the organization's strategic priorities. During the 2025–2026 program year, the committee focused on mentor recruitment while promoting student experiences, fundraising initiatives and key program events through digital storytelling, social media and marketing collateral.

ACE DAY 2025

As part of ACE Day of Action on October 17, 2025, ACE Northeast Florida hosted a mentor recruitment event at Haskell, bringing together industry professionals to learn more about the program and the rewarding impact of mentoring the next generation of architecture, engineering and construction leaders.



ACE Day of Action at Haskell

DESIGNING THE FUTURE

The ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida continued advancing the priorities established in its Strategic Plan during the 2025-2026 program year. These initiatives strengthen leadership, expand opportunities for students and position the organization for long-term sustainability. Throughout the year, the Board of Directors and committees made meaningful progress across the organization's five strategic focus areas.

Strategic Focus Areas

01
Talent, Leadership & Succession Planning

02
Alumni Engagement & Long-Term Involvement

03
Trades Pathways & Career Exposure

04
Tiered Program Growth & School Expansion

05
Financial Sustainability & Revenue Diversity

2025–2026 PROGRESS ON OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

This year's accomplishments reflect continued progress across the organization's five strategic focus areas.

- Strengthened board, committee and mentor recruitment to build a strong leadership pipeline.
- Refined committee structures, onboarding resources and leadership development efforts.
- Developed a lifecycle engagement framework for each stage of involvement—from students to alumni to mentors, board members and advisory council.
- Expanded the ACE Alumni Council and long-term alumni engagement strategies.
- Introduced Build-a-Bench Day to enhance hands-on trades education and career exploration.
- Enhanced volunteer, mentor and alumni tracking systems to strengthen engagement and organizational continuity.
- Operationalized documentation and resources to support continuity and future leadership.
- Continued evaluating program growth opportunities and organizational capacity to serve more students.
- Advanced fundraising and partnership strategies that support long-term sustainability.

Together, these efforts are building a stronger organization and creating lasting opportunities for the next generation of architecture, engineering, construction and skilled trades professionals.

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With a tax-deductible donation, you'll sponsor a student's participation in weekly mentoring, hands on projects, field trips, transportation and much more – providing a future for tomorrow's architecture, construction and engineering leaders.

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