



At our San Diego Affiliate, we work with 11 schools across the County, in mostly under-served communities. The students must sign up and attend the club-meetings on campus all year where they work closely with our Mentors from the Architecture, Construction and Engineering industries. During the spring, Juniors Seniors in the program are encouraged to apply for scholarships. Last year our Board of Directors was able to raise and disburse over \$123,000 to 40 students who qualified. These funds are to help pay their college education costs. Last year we had 205 students and 120 Mentors.

There are 2 ways to get involved: either financially, or through time. In late January our Board of Directors reaches out to over 200 firms across San Diego to help raise the scholarship funds. The other way is to encourage your staff to get involved and actually go into the schools to be mentors.

We are part of a National organization, with the HQ offices in DC. All Mentors must register in the National ACE Database at: [www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org) (lots of great info on that site) and more info at our local website: [www.acementorsd.org](http://www.acementorsd.org) (it takes about 3 minutes to get signed up, which triggers an invitation to do a secure background checks which lasts 3 years – all Mentors must do a background check in order to get on a school campus and work with minors).

In the Spring we have 2 big events: the Industry Donor Luncheon for all firms who donated, and the Student Showcase which is held on a Saturday in May at SDSU where all Teams present their final projects.

### **Overview of programming:**

The ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc. (ACE) helps mentor high school students and inspires them to pursue careers in design and construction. Our mission is 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. More than 9,000 students from 1,000 high schools annually participate in ACE. ACE not only engages sponsors and volunteer mentors to expose students to real-world opportunities, it financially supports each student's continued success through scholarships and grants.

Since inception, ACE has awarded over \$15 million in scholarships to promising participants. Practicing professionals attracting young people to real professions.

- Architects
- Interior Designers
- Landscape Architects
- Mechanical Engineers
- Structural Engineers
- Electrical Engineers
- Civil Engineers
- Construction Manager



### **How ACE Works**

ACE is made up of affiliates that serve youth within a certain city or region. Each affiliate has a board of directors, a local coordinator, and a number of teams.

Teams are composed of 15-25 students and their industry mentors. Each team is set up to emulate an actual design team, with students guided through a mock design project by their architect, engineer, and construction management mentors.

Several companies will be assigned to each team, each providing one or two mentors. Mentors guide the students as they work towards a final project, introducing them to the careers, industry vocabulary, and various roles companies play in the construction industry.

ACE runs for the duration of the school year. The teams meet for approximately 15 sessions, for about two hours after school. In addition to these team sessions, there are also all-team activities such as "College Night" and field trips to construction sites.

Each team meets on a specific day of the week, with varying meeting locations where possible. The meetings are held either in schools or at the offices of the firms to give the students as authentic an experience as possible.

At the end of the year, all of the teams, in each location, gather for a final presentation event. Here they present their designs to other teams, their families, teachers, prospective mentors so all can share in the students' accomplishments.

Many remain active alumni of the program through the scholarships they receive, relationships they develop with their mentors, and future employment opportunities they exercise — such as internships and post-college jobs.