

ACE Mentor Program Team from Florida Places 3rd in Country in National Design Competition

Winning team repeats their presentation at District II meeting where FHEA's sponsorship of the program is described

On September 9, 2015, ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida students presented their winning design for "Harmony Springs Health Clinic" to a group of about 65 at the FHEA District II meeting held at Florida Hospital Flagler. These students were finalists for the Ninth Annual Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), ACE Mentor Program of America National Design Competition. The team of aspiring architects, engineers and construction managers was selected out of a record 46 entries from across the country. The other competing teams were from Chicago, Illinois and Frederick, Maryland. They placed first in their category and third overall.

Joe De Marco, Mechanical Engineer, Engineering Manager with F & T LLC and a long-time mentor for the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida affiliate, was a team leader for the national team, along with Ken Loefgren, Principal with Loefgren & Associates, Inc. Joe was named one of five 2015 ACE – ENR Outstanding Mentors. Joe and Ken were on hand, along with Mr. Barrows, Orange Park High School teacher at the FHEA D2 meeting. Also representing ACE that evening

were FHEA supporting members and ACE NE Florida Board members, Emily Crews, TLC Engineering for Architecture, and Ryan Sitnik, Gilbane Building Company.

Founded during the 2006-2007 school year with significant support from the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) and Haskell, the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, helps high school students explore potential careers in architecture, construction and engineering (ACE). Scholarships are given each year through the continued support of corporate and personal donors, including FHEA.

Through the program, local industry professionals meet with students for two hours once a week for 16 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.

To learn more about this program, see the ACE NE Florida website at www.acementor.org/599.



Team from Orange Park High School along with team mentor, Joe De Marco at Florida Hospital Flagler for district meeting.



Team presents their winning presentation at D2 meeting.



Photo taken of team, and ACE supporters at Clay County School Board.



ACE Mentor team receives award in Washington, D.C.