



September 2009

YouthNotes

Sector-Based Youth Mentor Program Builds Career Paths for Youth

by Pamela Mullender, President, ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc.

In the early 1990s, a visionary leader in the building design industry recognized that the current pipeline of youth entering the design and construction trades would fail to meet future demand. Charles H. Thornton, PhD, PE, and Chairman of the Thornton Tomasetti Group, a prominent worldwide structural engineering firm, and others observed with concern the steadily declining matriculation in engineering and math programs. With an aging workforce and strong industry growth projections, the need for intervention was clear.

The challenge was to find a way to interest youth in the great breadth of meaningful employment opportunities the fields offered. The resulting ACE Mentor Program of America has, to date, given 50,000 high school students in 31 states and more than 1,600 high schools across the country a first-hand opportunity to explore careers in architecture, construction and engineering. In the process, ACE offers students practical exposure to the workplace and a foundation in basic business skills that are invaluable preparation for the future.

Getting Started

The origin of the innovative ACE Mentor Program was a collaborative effort.

World renowned engineers led by Charlie Thornton in New York City rallied their colleagues across the fields of architecture, construction management and engineering to donate time, talent and resources to reach youth during the pivotal adolescent years. From the outset, their hope was to attract traditionally underrepresented minority and female students to the program. Today, over 80 percent of ACE participants are minorities and 50% are women.

From one team of thirty students with only four mentor firms, the fledgling program grew until the ACE Mentor Program formally incorporated in 1995 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with 300 students and 50 mentors. By 2005, the program had expanded to 73 cities across the country with 3,100 students and over 1,000 mentors. Today, ACE serves over 10,000 students in 182 cities.

ACE Mentor operates within communities through its affiliate organizations. The national ACE office provides each local ACE Board of Directors with all the requisite tools and support needed to establish and maintain a program. A strong network of industry leaders serves as ACE Mentor sponsors at the national and local levels and has provided the financial backing behind the amazing growth. Each affiliate follows set protocols for enrolling students and enlisting mentors – including background checks and training. Mentors work from a set of best practices as a starting point for their activities.

While the ACE Mentor Program requires no funding from schools or students,

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Following August recess, Congress resumed work on many issues under discussion prior to the recess, namely healthcare, environment, and appropriations legislation. After the passing of **Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA)**, Senate majority leaders named **Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)** as chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. Sen. Harkin will maintain the chairmanship of the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Appropriators in the U.S. House of Representatives have finished all twelve of their fiscal year (FY) 2010 appropriations bills and are waiting for the Senate to vote on seven remaining appropriations bills, including the **Senate Labor-Health and Human Services (HHS)-Education Appropriations bill**. The new federal fiscal year begins on October 1, 2009.

Budget and Appropriations

The House passed its version of the fiscal year (FY) 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill in July, but the Senate has yet to hold a full floor vote on its bill. Congressional insiders believe that Congress will soon pass stop-gap funding bills to fund government operations through the end of October. Visit the NYEC Budget & Appropriations Side-by-Side with key youth provisions at www.nyec.org/content/documents/Budget&AppropsSidebySide.pdf.

Workforce Investment Act

On October 1, the House Education

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NYEC PEPNet Accredits Four High-Quality Youth Programs

On September 15, NYEC honored the four youth-serving organizations that received accreditation through the NYEC Promising and Effective Practices Network (PEPNet) Accreditation Pilot process: **Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources, Inc. (ACYR; Phoenix, AZ)**, **Jobs For Youth/Chicago (JFY/Chicago; Chicago, IL)**, **Our Piece of the Pie® (OPP; Hartford, CT)**, and **The Work Group's New Jersey Youth Corps Program (The Work Group; Pennsauken, NJ)**. These four organizations were part of a group of 12 trailblazing youth programs that participated in the Pilot.

NYEC convened the PEPNet Accreditation Recognition and Forum at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. NYEC Board Chair **Howard Knoll** of Casey Family Programs and NYEC Executive Director **Mala B. Thakur** awarded the Accreditation plaques.


NYEC Board member **John Martinez** of MDRC moderated a panel on quality practices and continuous improvement in youth programs. The panel included a youth and program staff person from each of the four PEPNet-Accredited organizations: **Mawa Jabateh**, Program Participant and **Sharlett Barnett**, WIA Programs Manager, ACYR; **Maurice Finley**, Program Alum and **Andrew J. Abrahams**, Executive Director, JFY/Chicago; **April Jefferson**, Program Participant and **Kimberly Williams-Rivera**, Director of Quality Assurance, OPP; and **Quiana Pope**, Youth Peer Support Worker and **Lori Godorov**, Executive Director, The Work Group.

NYEC embarked upon the PEPNet Accreditation Pilot in the fall of 2007 with the intention of recognizing high-quality youth-serving organizations, identifying and sharing quality practices, and



Following their panel discussion, representatives from the four NYEC PEPNet-Accredited youth-serving organizations pose for a photo at the foot of the nation's capitol. Back row, from left: Sharlett Barnett, Bob Rath, Lori Godorov, Kimberly Williams-Rivera, Andrew Abrahams, John Martinez, Eric Cline; front row, from left: April Jefferson, Quiana Pope, Mawa Jabateh, Mala B. Thakur, Katie Hahn, Maurice Finley.

fostering a culture of continuous improvement in the fields of youth development, workforce development and education.

For more information, contact Eric Cline at ec@nyec.org. Read the press release at www.nyec.org/content/documents/Press_Release-NYEC_PEPNet_Accreditation-9-09.pdf. 


Cadre of Trainers Prepare to Train Youth Service Professionals

From August 3-5, a group of 18 professionals from the fields of youth development, disability, and workforce development convened in Washington, DC as part of an effort to develop a cadre of trainers for the Youth Service Professionals Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (YSP/KSA) initiative.

NYEC, as a partner in the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth) helped assemble this first

class of trainers from nine states and the District of Columbia to begin to establish a pool of trainers who are well-versed in the YSP/KSA initiative and training modules. The training was geared to help these trainers acquire and enhance skills that allow them to address training objectives based on the needs of YSP/KSA future trainees and help promote the sustainability of professional development efforts in the field.

The YSP/KSA framework reflects competencies required to work with all youth, including youth with disabilities, in workforce and youth development settings. YSP/KSA resources include a series of professional development tools, information briefs, online resources, and training modules. Currently in its eighth year, the YSP/KSA initiative was developed through NCWD/Youth, a national technical assistance center supported by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy and managed by the Institute for Educational Leadership. NYEC, a NCWD/Youth partner, has served as the lead organization developing the KSAs and many of their related tools.

For more information on the YSP/KSA initiative, related competencies, and tools, contact NYEC Director, Professional Development **GeMar Neloms** at gn@nyec.org or visit www.nyec.org/page.cfm?pageID=248 and www.ncwd-youth.info/professional-development. 




Participants in the for the Youth Service Professional Knowledge Skills and Abilities (YSP/KSA) train the trainer meeting pose for a group photograph after several days of intensive hands-on training on the YSP/KSA modules.

NYEC Members Featured in Senate Video on ARRA Youth Programs

On June 19, program staff and youth from three NYEC member organizations participated in the production of a video for the U.S. Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee. The video focused on the success of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in providing summer jobs for America's youth. Released in August 2009, the video featured Katie Hahn and youth participant Antonio Algrin from The Work Group in Pennsauken, NJ; Adam Soto and youth participant Francisco Garcia from Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources, Inc. in Phoenix, AZ; and Jinelle Hooker and youth participant Joshua Vidot from Our Piece of the Pie® in Hartford, CT, along with NYEC Executive Director Mala B. Thakur and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA). NYEC had recognized

all three youth-serving organizations earlier this year as high-quality youth programs through the NYEC Promising and Effective Practices Network (PEPNet) Accreditation Pilot process.

The video production was facilitated by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), U.S. Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee Chair, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV).

Video participants provided a diversity of experiences and positive perspectives on the impact of ARRA investments in their communities and the lives of youth throughout America. View the video at www.democrats.senate.gov/recovery or on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpnfduSBkx8&feature=channel_page. 



Youth and youth professionals featured in the U.S. Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee video on summer youth programming funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act pause for a photograph in the office of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). Back row, from left: Jonathan Larsen, Antonio Algrin, Adam Soto, Francisco Garcia; front row, from left: Joshua Vidot, Jinelle Hooker, Katie Hahn, Mala B. Thakur.

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and Labor Committee will hold a hearing on encouraging economic opportunity for young Americans. Assistant Secretary of Labor-ETA Jane Oates and others will testify. Congressional insiders have indicated that Congress will not take up reauthorization for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) until early 2010, although congressional leaders may schedule hearings focused on WIA reauthorization for later this year.

New Legislation

On August 6, Sens. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Al Franken (D-MN), and Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY) introduced the Reengaging Americans in Serious Education by Uniting Programs (RAISE UP) Act. Some of the elements of RAISE UP include:

- Community partnerships would receive federal funds to integrate existing and often disparate services into an intentional dropout recovery system at the local level. Grants would be awarded to the partnerships that would then subgrant funds to provide services that focus on education, job training, and wraparound support services.
- RAISE UP would serve disadvantaged young people who have dropped out of high school, including runaway and homeless youth, youth in and aging out

of foster care, and youth with disabilities.

- RAISE UP would give priority to applications from eligible youth-serving entities proposing to serve areas with disproportionately high numbers of young dropouts and those entities that serve areas with high concentrations of young people from low-income families.
- RAISE UP would be authorized at \$1 billion for FY 2010, and “such sums as may be necessary” for FY 2011 – FY 2014. Of amounts appropriated, a total of no more than 10 percent would be able to be used for evaluation, technical assistance, and dissemination of best practices.

View the full bill text at www.nyec.org/content/documents/RAISEUP.pdf. Access a one-page summary of RAISE UP at www.nyec.org/content/documents/RAISE-UPOne-Page.doc.

On September 9, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Sen. Ben Nelson (D-NE) re-introduced the Full Service Community Schools Act of 2009 (H.R. 3545). The U.S. Department of Education has already revised its Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title I guidelines to allow funds to be used to develop community schools. This legislation would autho-

rize \$200 million in grants for state collaboratives to plan, coordinate, and expand the delivery of services at full-service community schools. The legislation would also create a “Full-Service Community Schools Advisory Committee,” consisting of the Attorney General and the Secretaries of Education, Agriculture, HHS, and Labor.

Education

On September 17, the House passed the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009 (H.R. 3221) by a vote of 253-171. The bill would amend the Higher Education Act to increase the maximum Pell Grant amount, authorize a “College Access and Completion Fund,” reform student loan programs, provide grants for the “Modernization, Renovation or Repair of Public School Facilities,” create an “Early Learning Challenge Fund,” and authorize the “American Graduation Initiative.” The HELP Committee will consider similar legislation soon.

August 28 was the deadline for the submission of comments on the U.S. Department of Education’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act- (ARRA) funded Race to the Top Fund Notice of Proposed Requirements. NYEC submitted comments encouraging the Department to provide more incentives to schools to engage in

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009 National Youth Development Symposium

The National Association of Workforce Development Professionals will convene the 2009 National Youth Development Symposium from December 7-9 in Chicago, IL. This year's theme is "Investing in Youth: Delivering on the Promise." Registration is now open. NYEC is conducting a pre-conference session on the Promising and Effective Practices Network (PEPNet), organizational continuous improvement, and quality practices in youth programming. Learn more at www.nawdp.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=HomePage&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=2093.

OJJDP Awards Mentoring Grants to NYEC Members

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recently awarded mentoring grants. Recipients included many NYEC members: Goodwill Industries International, Home Builders Institute, Institute for Educational Leadership, Public/Private Ventures, and Youth-Build USA. Learn more at ojjdp.ncjrs.org/enews/09juvjust/090902.html.

Issue Brief Highlights Cost to Nation of High School Dropouts

The Alliance for Excellence in Education published an issue brief entitled "The High Cost of High School Dropouts: What the Nation Pays for Inadequate Schools." The brief estimates that if all the students who dropped out in 2009 would have graduated and received their diploma, they would be able to generate nearly \$335 billion in income over the course of their lifetimes. Read more at www.all4ed.org/files/HighCost.pdf.

Paper Focuses on Postsecondary Pathways for Dropouts

The Center for American Progress recently released a paper entitled "Creating Postsecondary Pathways for Young High School Dropouts: The Possibilities and the Challenges." Linda Harris and Evelyn Ganzglass of NYEC member Center for Law and Social Policy authored the paper. Read the paper at www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/10/pdf/postsecondary_pathways.pdf.

USDOL Issues Paper on Apprenticeships and Youth with Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration issued a white paper on improving transition outcomes of youth with disabilities through apprenticeship. Learn more at wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=2805.

Paper Outlines Strategies to All Youth to Gain College-Ready Math Skills

Supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, WestEd published a paper entitled "Rethinking High School: Supporting All Students to Be College-Ready in Math." Access the paper at www.wested.org/online_pubs/GF-08-01.pdf.

Education Commission of the States Releases Adolescent Literacy Factsheet

The Education Commission of the States released a four-page fact sheet on adolescent literacy. The fact sheet includes a state-by-state policy matrix. Access the fact sheet at www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/78/51/7851.pdf.

PASSAGES

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), who passed away on August 25, 2009 at the age of 77, was a steadfast voice for America's at-risk and disconnected youth. The senator was a primary force behind such legislative achievements as the State Children's Insurance Program, the No Child Left Behind Act and the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. In his more than two decades as Chair or Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Sen. Kennedy continually supported programs serving youth in low-income families and youth facing the greatest barriers to education and career success.

Larry Brown, 59, president of Washington, DC-based Work, Achievement, Values, and Education (WAVE) since 1978. Under Brown, WAVE developed its curriculum and technical assistance services to become one of the most successful organizations serving youth who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out of school. More than 600 schools and community programs have used WAVE's assistance to implement dropout prevention programs. Brown served as chairman of the NYEC Board of Directors and helped the U.S. Department of Labor with implementation of the first wave of Youth Opportunity Grants during the Clinton administration.

2009 National Youth Development Symposium – Chicago, IL

NYEC Pre-Conference Session (Dec. 7 - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm):

Quality is a Verb: Building and Improving Exceptional Youth Programs through PEPNet

Are you interested in improving youth programs, assessing program quality, identifying areas for support or assistance, and more? Join this interactive session to learn how you can use the National Youth Employment Coalition's Promising and Effective Practices Network (PEPNet) suite of resources and tools to help you achieve better results. PEPNet is the nation's leading best practices and quality standards initiative for youth development and workforce programming. You will gain hands-on experience with PEPNet's suite of publications and tools, receive personalized assistance to identify PEPNet resources most beneficial to your work, learn how to access many more resources online, and explore possibilities for national accreditation for your youth workforce development program. Participants will receive PEPNet's two newest publications. Organizations considering program-wide PEPNet quality assessment are encouraged to bring at least two attendees. For more information, visit www.nawdp.org.

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dropout recovery and reengagement efforts and to connect with community-based organizations to provide services to disconnected youth. The Department is seeking peer reviewers to judge the Race to the Top competition. For more information, visit www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/index.html. View NYEC's Race to the Top comments at www.nyec.org/content/documents/FinalRacetothetop-NoticeCommentsNYEC2009.pdf.

Through September 25, the U.S. Department of Education accepted comments on its Notice of Proposed Requirements for another ARRA-funded grant program called **School Improvement Grants**. These grants will be awarded to state education agencies, which in turn will allocate funds to local education agencies (LEAs), for the purpose of implementing "reform strategies that result in substantially improved student achievement." The Department will award grants to LEAs that show "(1) the greatest need for the funds and (2) the strongest commitment to ensuring that the funds are used to provide adequate resources to enable the lowest-achieving schools to meet their goals for substantially raising the achievement of their students." For more information, visit www.ed.gov/programs/sif/index.html.

USDOL Announcements

On October 1, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) will convene a national listening session to "gain recommendations from a disability stakeholder perspective" on WIA reauthorization. Learn more at www.doleta.gov/usworkforce/whatsnew/eta_default.cfm?id=2230.

On September 23, USDOL ETA released a white paper and toolkit focusing on the expansion of apprenticeships for youth and

young adults with disabilities. Find more information at www.doleta.gov/usworkforce/whatsnew/eta_default.cfm?id=2232.

On September 21, USDOL ETA released Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 1-09, providing additional guidance on ARRA reporting requirements. The guidance instructs summer and year-round ARRA-funded youth employment programs, both summer and non-summer, to report Job Creation Estimates. In order to avoid overstating the number of full-time jobs created, the guidance instructs programs to estimate job creation in terms of "full-time equivalents," calculated "as the total hours worked (paid) divided by the number of hours in a full-time schedule, as defined by the recipient." View the full document at wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?docn=2806.

On September 2, USDOL ETA published snapshots of innovative summer youth programs across the United States. For more information, visit www.doleta.gov/usworkforce/whatsnew/eta_default.cfm?id=2220.

On August 26, USDOL ETA held a webinar entitled "Strategies to Transition Older Youth into Workforce Activities After Summer 2009." Access a recording of the webinar at www.workforce3one.org/view/5000920957388172820/info. The webinar included discussions of transitional job models, co-enrollment with adult WIA services, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, using statewide activities funds, and innovative transitional strategies.

On August 19, USDOL withdrew 2006 rules setting policy for the implementation of WIA and the **Wagner-Peyser Act**. The change rescinds instructions to more fully integrate Wagner-Peyser Employment Services and WIA One-Stop centers, rescinds rules eliminating merit staffing requirements, and rescinds a rule reducing the minimum age for youth to access Individual Training Accounts from 18 to 16 years old, among other changes. Learn more at www.doleta.gov/usworkforce/whatsnew/eta_default.cfm?id=2210. ✨



NATIONAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COALITION

Howard Knoll, Chair, Board of Directors
Mala B. Thakur, Executive Director
Nancy Martin, Director, Capacity Building Initiatives
GeMar Neloms, Director, Professional Development
Laura Jiménez, Director, Postsecondary Achievement
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The National Youth Employment Coalition is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, W.T. Grant Foundation, Institute for Educational Leadership, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, fees for service, and membership dues.

NYEC publishes YouthNotes 11 months of the year.

building relationships with high school educators, administrators, and career counselors as well as with local colleges and universities is critical to its success. The founders of ACE Mentor recognized that the path to a career in any field is a journey; for those students interested in the construction industry, committing to specialized coursework is a prerequisite. ACE partners with nearly 50 colleges, universities and community colleges nationwide, enabling the affiliates to provide interested students with better direction and access to financial aid. ACE Mentor is also cultivating ways to help guide ACE students who seek work in the construction trades through its collaboration with the International Masonry Institute, the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers and others.

Partnerships with Project Lead the Way, National Academy Foundation, and the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering all expand opportunities to enrich the ACE Mentor program and to reach a broad spectrum of youth.

How It Works

The core of the ACE experience is based around a multi-disciplinary team of volunteer professionals who meet weekly with students after school for a total of approximately 15-18 visits and 45+ hours at an off-site location whenever possible. Each week, a different industry specialty takes center stage with activities and discussions that highlight skills and job responsibilities. One week might focus on engineering with students constructing weight-bearing structures out of drinking straws while another focuses on architecture with a blueprint scavenger hunt. Field trips to job sites and buildings of note in the area complement activities in the office. Over the years, ACE students have had the opportunity to visit high-profile projects in process, from the new Yankee Stadium to the San Diego Convention Center, to skyscrapers around the country. The ability to draw the connection between skills gained in the classroom to tangible results in the real world helps motivate students to invest themselves more fully their education.

A highlight of the ACE Mentor experience is the opportunity for each team to select a year-long hypothetical design project. Under mentor guidance, the teams take their project from concept to well-researched design and work with industry tools in the process, such as AutoCAD design software. Project ideas are endless and have included a mixed-use recreational center, shopping mall, sustainably designed arts center, subway station and an aquarium. At a year-end banquet, students formally present their completed projects to an audience of parents, mentors, educators and often community leaders.

ACE Mentor firms not only provide their volunteer professionals but also donate scholarship funds for students committed to pursuing education in a related field. This past year, 68 affiliates donated \$1.5 million toward scholarships for a cumulative total of more than \$8.5 million since 2000.

The ACE network is also useful to program graduates for future paid internships and employment. For example, in this past year in Chicago, almost 200 students participated in the ACE Mentor program. Of those participants, 25 percent garnered a summer internship. The New York City affiliate, the oldest in the country, has an established relationship with the NYC School Construction Authority (NYC SCA) for its paid summer internship pro-

gram, with a significant segment of its openings reserved for qualified ACE graduates each year. ACE Mentor firms also value ACE graduates as job candidates. Recently, a qualitative inquiry of ACE alumni who have graduated from college suggests that more than two-thirds of them are now working in the industry.


Friendships among participants and between mentors and students persist beyond the program; approximately 60 percent of ACE affiliates have established alumni groups. This coming fall, an enhanced national website with special access for ACE graduates further solidifies these connections and provides valuable resources, including links to job postings with ACE Mentor firms.

Moving Forward

Through its rapid and successful growth, the ACE Mentor Program has become a turnkey operation with an established framework for setting up new affiliates and working with mentor firms and schools. In this past year alone, ACE added 30 new affiliates and has lofty goals to exceed 200 affiliates and 100,000 students by 2012.

This experience offers flexibility to pursue innovative opportunities. For example, this past year, ACE began a pilot program for injured veterans at Walter Reed National Medical Center outside Washington, D.C. Efforts are also underway to bring the ACE Mentor Program to a remote American Indian/Alaska Native community. In short, wherever interest, available construction sites and potential mentor firms representing all components of the ACE equation exist, so does the possibility to establish an ACE presence. Through its strategic partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council, ACE Mentor is also working to achieve a preliminary LEED certification for ACE participants, providing them with an additional competitive edge as they pursue their careers.

The ACE Mentor Program offers a successful example of an industry taking the initiative to address its workforce concerns. From new construction to revitalizing an aging infrastructure to the growing priority of sustainable design, the need and the opportunities in the field remain vast. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the construction industry and its related fields represent a major employment force in our country, with more than seven million workers and 10 percent projected growth from 2006-2016 – an increase of roughly 800,000 jobs. A range of other factors, from unforeseen natural disasters to federal investments through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, school construction, energy efficiency and other programs, are likely to add to this demand.

As the ACE Mentor Program approaches its 15th year, the commitment of its non-profit and corporate leadership is stronger than ever to enlighten and educate youth about the exciting opportunities in the design and building industries. As with our students and their projects, our capacity to grow and build is limited only by our imagination in forging the public-private partnerships that will expand opportunity for America's youth. 

ACE Mentor Program

Registration for the 2009-2010 year of the ACE Mentor Program is underway nationwide. For more information and applications for interested high school students, please visit www.acementor.org.