



**CONTACT: Denise Ramsey, 904.791.4592**

**ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA  
INTRODUCES LOCAL STUDENTS TO CAREERS  
IN ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING**

-- Second Largest Employment Industry In The U.S. Sponsors Program That  
Addresses Growing Need For Talented Professionals --

**JACKSONVILLE, FL, January 17, 2008** - The ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida recently organized tours of construction sites in Jacksonville for 26-students from A. Phillip Randolph Academies of Technologies. Pictured below are the students outside of the office of RS&H, a Jacksonville architecture/engineering firm.

The ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, Inc. is in its second year of mentoring in Jacksonville. In addition to providing career mentoring in the fields of architecture, engineering and construction, it is working to provide scholarship opportunities to those students who show a commitment to the industry.



The 26 students from A. Philip Randolph Academies of Technology who participate in the after school ACE Mentoring Program were treated to an up close and personal view of what to expect in the fields of architecture, construction and engineering in Jacksonville during the recent field trip. The morning began at the Gate Precast plant on the northside where they listened to a presentation on precast concrete and were able to visit the yard to see fabricated concrete members destined to jobsites in Jacksonville.

Elkins Constructors' University of North Florida's Student Union construction site was the next stop. This site allowed the students to see structural framing and rough-in during early stages of building construction. From there it was onto Haskell's Phase III Expansion of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Headquarters on the southside. The students were able to see buildings further along in construction at this site with interior finishes being put in place.

Trying the best to remove the dirt from their boots, they continued on to visit Reynolds Smith and Hills' office to see architects and engineers in their office environment explaining what they do on a daily basis. The field trip finished up by visiting Belet's Millwork. None of the students knew what millwork was at the beginning of the day but they learned by seeing it being fabricated. For those of you that don't know – millwork is

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111 Riverside Avenue · Jacksonville, Florida 32202 · 904.791.4592 · fax 904.475.7851

[denise.ramsey@thehaskellco.com](mailto:denise.ramsey@thehaskellco.com) · [www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org)

Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering

the another word for woodwork. They saw crown moldings and cabinets in all stages of fabrication.

Created to address the growing need for skilled professionals in the architecture, construction and engineering industries - a shortage that could become a crisis if current trends continue – the ACE initiative is backed at the national level by a coalition of the industry’s top companies that includes Turner Construction, EMCOR Group and McGraw Hill Construction, among many others. The program is part of a nationwide program of outreach and mentoring for students in 106 markets across the country where ACE has a presence. It includes national advertising, a newly-designed website ([www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org)), and collateral materials, including a range of posters and a brochure, all designed to engage students, parents, and educational institutions and communicate the opportunity presented by careers in architecture, construction, engineering, and related fields.

For more information on how to support the program or mentor in Northeast Florida, please contact Denise Ramsey, at [denise.ramsey@haskell.com](mailto:denise.ramsey@haskell.com).

#### **About the ACE Mentor Program**

The ACE Mentor Program was founded by the principals of leading design and construction firms, to introduce high school students to career opportunities in the industry. The mission of the organization is twofold: to enlighten and motivate students toward architecture, construction, engineering, and related careers; and to provide mentoring opportunities for future designers and constructors. ACE makes a special attempt to reach students that otherwise may not become aware of the challenges and rewards of a career in the design and construction industry.

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