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ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL ACE MENTOR PROGRAM AFFILIATE FINALIST IN NATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION IN DC – MENTOR TEAM LEADER NAMED ENR OUTSTANDING MENTOR

Jacksonville, Florida, April 28, 2015 – Joseph A. DeMarco, Mechanical Engineer, Engineering Manager with F & T LLC and a long-time Mentor for the ACE Mentor program of Northeast Florida affiliate, has been named one of five 2015 ACE – ENR Outstanding Mentors.

Joe and the Northeast Florida affiliate are in the most unusual situation of being doubly honored this year. Joe's team was one of the three finalists for the Ninth Annual Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), ACE Mentor Program of America National Design Competition for their "Harmony Springs Health Clinic" entry. 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. In preparation for the national presentation, the team presented before the Clay County School Board on April 16th. (picture attached)

Only one of the team members was allowed to present in the competition, and on April 27th, Brian Reed represented Orange Park High School's Team Mark-O for the competition finals in Washington, DC. Other team members included:

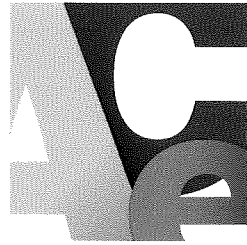
- Violette Otero
- Kenny Windham
- Michael Nee
- Tom McClymont
- Destiny Childress
- Hunter Vatele

(Team picture attached except Hunter). Joe, OPHS teacher, Doug Barrows, and former affiliate Chair and current Board Member, Kimberly Hansen, were also in attendance. Mentors unable to attend include:

- Michael Compton, RS&H
- Ken Loefgren, Loefgren & Associates
- Marie Hurst, Nemours
- Mary Ellen De Marco, F & T LLC
- Tom Grogan, Haskell
- Fred Heyne, Heyne & Associates.

During the ceremonies, Joe was presented the Outstanding Mentor Award (picture attached).

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, Inc.
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Career Directions for Students in Architecture, Construction and Engineering



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

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Our local affiliate's annual Year-End event will take place on May 15, 2015 at UNF Adam W. Herbert University Center in Jacksonville. Students from our local participating high schools – Lee High School, Orange Park High School, and Middleburg High School, and a group of homeschooled students will present their own projects before judges and an audience of ACE professionals. Following the presentations, the National Team from Orange Park High School will present their project, and scholarships will be awarded to the qualifying seniors from the ACE Program.

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 corporate and personal donors.

Through the program, mentors from local industry professional firms 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.

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