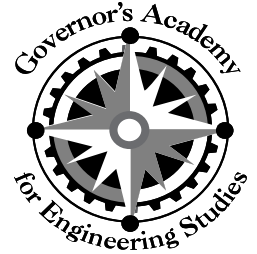




**LLOYD C. BIRD HIGH SCHOOL
& the Virginia Governor's Academy
for Engineering Studies**



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To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing you today to introduce you to the Richmond area ACE Mentor organization (<https://www.acementorrva.com>, ACE is for Architecture, Construction, and Engineering). This is a national organization that has been in existence for 25 years whose 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" (<https://www.acementor.org>). While Richmond has had an ACE Mentor chapter in the past, it has recently reactivated and is now seeking opportunities within local school districts to establish partnerships to meet their mission.

As the Coordinator of the Governor's Academy for Engineering Studies at Lloyd C. Bird High School, in Chesterfield, Virginia, I had the pleasure of working with this organization this past year. Their program brought professionals from all three fields into the school on a weekly basis, and worked with my students, helping them understand exactly what an architect, an engineer, and a construction manager do when working together. As I sat through these lessons and activities with my students, I couldn't help but be impressed with the quality of the information shared and activities for the students. The ACE Mentor organization conducts its own thorough background check on all volunteers and their curriculum is well-organized and engaging for students.

Honestly, over the years I have worked with various organizations wishing to instruct students in one topic or another and have found that those programs often seemed more focused on what the organization wanted to accomplish rather than what the students needed. It was with that initial skepticism that I started my work with ACE Mentors. I quickly realized this was different – the lessons were engaging, relevant and actively delivered by professionals who brought real-life examples into the classroom. I was reminded that there are lessons that classroom teachers just cannot deliver and the ACE Mentor organization brought that "missing link" to my students. The organization strives to support ACE Mentor students beyond high school with scholarships and professional connections to help with internships and job placement. I found the ACE Mentor program to offer the best in business/school partnership opportunities for students to see real-world examples of work and professions while delivering the information in age-appropriate lessons and activities. .

If given the opportunity I hope you might find time to discuss potential partnerships with the ACE Mentor organization. I plan to continue our relationship with the organization in the coming year (assuming we do get back to some normal schedule in the fall). I believe my students benefited from this group's dedication to their profession and the ACE Mentor organization. I would recommend any school to take advantage of the ACE Mentor offer to partner. If there are any questions I can answer about our experience at L.C. Bird, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. In the meantime, I wish you the best and look forward to hearing news of an ACE Mentor program possibly in your school in the coming year.

Best regards,

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