According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for landscape architecture services is the fastest growing among all design professions. How do we meet this demand? The ACE Mentor Program has reached more than 30,000 high school students and provides direct access to a diverse audience of creative students who want to pursue careers in design and construction. Hear how this program can change the future of the landscape architecture profession and learn how you and your colleagues can get involved in ACE in your own community.

Learning Objectives:
- Hear firsthand how ACE can provide a career path for a high school student interested in design and construction.
- Understand the value of being an ACE Mentor and how it can promote the profession and enhance your practice.
- ACE’s potential for advancing the Profession of Landscape Architecture
- ACE’s Success in expanding diversity in the Profession
- ACE’s ability to achieve National recognition for both its mentors and students
- Learn how the ACE Curriculum and scholarship programs work on the local level, as well as its success in engaging underserved students
- ACE’s potential for increasing enrollment in Landscape Architecture programs

Panelists:
William B. Kuhl, FASLA, Saratoga Associates, Moderator
John Strock, Executive Director, National ACE Mentor Program
Diana Eidenshink, Regional Director–Northeast, ACE Mentor Program of America
Joseph M. Cole Associate AIA, LEED AP
Robert J. Golde, ASLA, Towers/Golde

Course Outline:

*Introduction By William Kuhl*
- Why ACE
- What it means to Landscape Architects
- Why it’s Important to ASLA and the Profession of Landscape Architecture
- How can you get involved

*Video: Learn About Careers In Landscape Architecture*
John Strock
- Overview of ACE Mentor program
- Success of its programs and introduction of woman and minorities to the professions of Architecture, Engineering, Landscape Architecture and Construction
- National Design competition sponsored by ACE and CIRT (Construction Industry Round Table)
- Scholarships

Diane Eidenschenk
- Affiliate Structure/Regional Director Role
- ACE on the Ground-Local Teams are Where it Happens
- Motivated Mentors-LA Case Study
- Filling the Pipeline-Building Partnerships with your Local ACE Program

Joseph Cole Associate AIA, LEED AP
- Benefits to students
  1. Exposure to careers in the design and construction industry
  2. Life and professional skills
  3. Scholarships
  4. Mentorship
- How the ACE Teams are structured and Operate
- Role of Mentors
- Benefits of the design and Construction Industry
  1. Awareness of the roles we play in Shaping the our Communities
  2. ACE’s Success with encouraging diversity

Robert Golde, ASLA
- Importance of Landscape Architects being Mentors
- How it can assist you in your professional career
- Professional network Building Opportunities
- Exposure to Large Team Collaboration Process (for both students and young professionals from smaller offices)
- Educating and introducing fellow professionals to the profession and capabilities of Landscape Architects
- How involvement in ACE can expand student enrollment in LA Programs

Questions to the Panel

Audience Q&A

Closing Remarks
**Speaker Bios:**

*John Strock- Executive Director, Ace Mentor Program of America*

As Executive Director of the ACE Mentor Program of America, John Strock is responsible for overseeing the operations of ACE across the country. Present in 36 states and over 200 communities, ACE reaches 8,000 high school students each year through a network of nearly 5,000 volunteer mentors. Under Strock’s leadership, the ACE national office manages national branding and marketing, fundraising, and insurance, among its other responsibilities. During his tenure, ACE was awarded the Presidential Award of Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, the nation’s highest award for mentoring. With 13 years of experience in the construction nonprofit sector, he has developed a love for all facets of the design and construction industries. He is passionate about workforce development, and is conscious of the need to recruit young people to fill the impending worker shortage. Strock graduated from the Virginia Military Institute with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Business.

*Diana Eidenshink- Director of Regional Programs-Northeast*

Diana has been a part of the ACE family for a long time. Starting as an ACE volunteer over 14 years ago, Diana has spent the last three years as a Regional Director of ACE National, promoting the success of ACE’s Affiliates in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast region. In her role as Regional Director, she works with the affiliates throughout the region as the liaison to the National office. Before that she was the Affiliate Director of the eastern PA program. Diana was drawn to ACE through the passion and enthusiasm of her father, none other than ACE founder Charlie Thornton. When he asked her to help him start the ACE Philadelphia Affiliate, she jumped at the chance to get involved.

Prior to working for ACE, Diana was a Vice President of marketing for a large healthcare company specializing in employee benefits. Giving up the corporate life to help the ACE Program has been a life changing experience. The program has not only changed her life, but the lives of everyone involved in this program, especially the student.

*Joseph M. Cole, Associate AIA, LEEDAP*

Joseph’s interests lie in the relationship between community advocacy, sustainability, economic development, and quality design and how they can merge to create meaningful architecture. As a student at the University of Tennessee (UT), Joseph’s passion for community design and development was ignited while volunteering as a Lead Architectural Design Intern at the East Tennessee Community Design Center. Joseph continued to become heavily involved on campus and the local community, going on to be awarded with the Chancellor’s Gene Mitchell Gray Pioneer Award, UT’s highest award for improving cultural diversity on campus. Joseph now works as a licensed Architect at Thomas, Miller, and Partners, and has experience contributing to architectural designs for healthcare, government, and higher education facilities. He has gone on to represent his firm in various civic organizations and obtain LEED AP and CDT certifications. Joseph also volunteers with the ACE Mentor Program, AIA Emerging Professionals Committee and US Green Building Council.

In 2013 Joseph was one of four people in the nation recognized as an Allstate Giveback Day Hero. These individuals are recognized for their outstanding commitment to volunteering in his or her community and continuing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s Legacy of community service.

*Robert J. Golde, ASLA- Principal Towers/Golde*

As principal in the New Haven, CT Landscape Architecture firm of Tower/Golde since 1997, Bob has focused his practice on developing a highly collaborative approach to site planning and implementation of projects of all types and scales. His firm has received more than 50 state, national and international...
awards for completed projects, and has been honored by the American Society of landscape Architects with its most prestigious Award of Excellence. Bob holds a BS in Environmental Studies and a BLA from the State University of NY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, as well as his CLARB Certification, and is licensed in the states of Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maryland and Virginia.

Bob is currently serving on the ASLA Board of Trustees, where he sits on the Licensure and Finance Investment Committees. Additionally he serves the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board’s Roster of Visiting Evaluators, and on the Board of Directors of the ACE Mentor program of Connecticut, and the Connecticut Building Congress and Connecticut Architecture Foundation. Mr. Golde has been a long standing participant in the ACE Mentor Program, and he is committed to ensuring that the next generation of design professionals are aware of the outstanding opportunities the profession of landscape architecture has to offer.

William B. Kuhl, FASLA, Chairman of the Board, Saratoga Associates

Bill has been a practicing Landscape architect for more than 40 years, 33 as the principal of his own firm. Projects designed by him or executed under his direction have had a distinct focus on the public realm and are located throughout the US and abroad. A majority of these projects have encompassed the design of public spaces and community revitalization and renewal through the integration of multi-textured streetscapes, introduction of dynamic open space nodes and plazas, and urban parks. Mr. Kuhl’s more than 80 national, state and city design awards, representative of his diverse portfolio of executed projects, attest to his success in realizing the full potential of each project. In addition to being the Chairman of the Board at Saratoga Associates, a multi-disciplinary design firm, he is also the overall Principal in Charge of the firms Landscape Architecture practice.

In addition to his professional practice, Mr. Kuhl has maintained his commitment to the profession of Landscape Architecture through his more than 40 year involvement with ASLA. He has been NY Chapter President, Chairman of the NY Council of Landscape Architects, NY Chapter Trustee for 8 years, National ASLA Representative to the Landscape Architecture Foundation, LARE instructor, Chairman of the NY Chapter Awards program, Member of the National ASLA Government Task Force, Juror for National ASLA Student Design Awards, and served on the CLARB Licensing Exam Task Force. He was also National ASLA Representative on the New York New Visions Committee and served as ASLA Co-Chair on the “Designing for a Secure Future” Symposium after 9/11. He has continued his ASLA participation as National ASLA’s Representative on the National ACE Board of Directors since 2008, and is a former ACE mentor.

Bill is a licensed/registered Landscape Architect in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, South and North Carolina, Ohio, Florida and Texas. He received a BLA from both the New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and Syracuse University, and studied Urban Design at NYU.

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