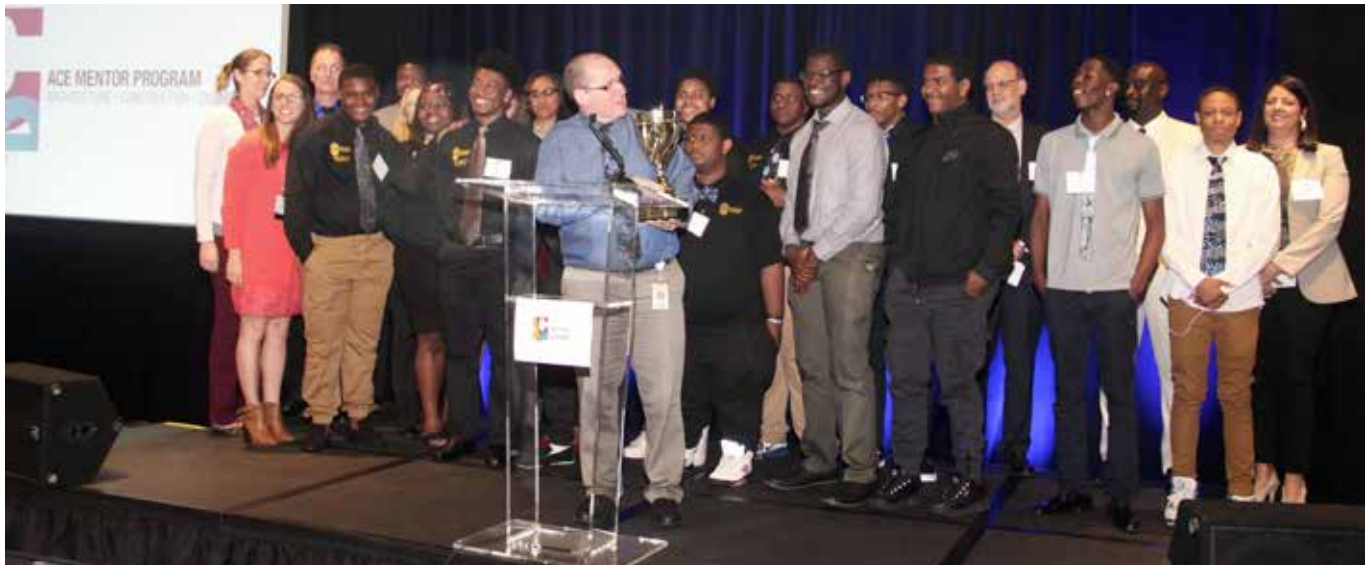


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Students in ACE Mentor Program eye bright future



Clockwise from top: Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO Eric Gordon presents trophy to winning team from New Tech East HS; New Tech poster summarizing their project; a few of the mentors and volunteers from the ACE Mentoring Program.

By Sylest Lofton

The future is bright, as shown through the ambitions and creative visions of ACE Mentor Program students. This message was clear to an audience of ACE Mentor Cleveland Program supporters, teachers, mentors, and family members who gathered on May 9th at the annual ACE Banquet to recognize the accomplishments of the 2018-2019 ACE class.

Throughout the evening banquet attendees learned first-hand from ACE students, alumni, mentors, and community leaders about the positive impact the ACE Program has made on youth in the Cleveland community.

The ACE Mentor Program is an after-school mentorship program that introduces high school students to the worlds of architecture, construction, and engineering through mentoring from A/E/C industry professionals. Students work diligently through the school year to prepare a design and construction project in response to a program RFP addressing real-world problems.

Currently, the program engages 175 students across 11 schools (10 of which are within the Cleveland Metropolitan School, with one additional site being at Warrensville Heights High School) and is supported by a network of over 130 A/E/C industry professionals. Since its inception 11 years ago, the program has awarded a staggering \$950,000 in scholarships to high school students.

Speaking to banquet attendees, Eric Gordon, Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) CEO, attributed ACE's true value to the program's structure which facilitates "demonstrations of learning." Demonstrations of learning are a teaching

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Continued from Page 5

strategy increasingly being used within CMSD to highlight and foster student knowledge by giving them a platform to learn applicable skills. “It [demonstrations of learning] says so much more than simple test scores but is also the reason our test scores are continuing to climb,” stated Gordon.

Presentations from this year’s top two scoring ACE classes, Warrensville Heights and New Tech East, shined a light on the level of sophistication and skill that demonstrations of learning can bring to student’s education. The conclusion of the evening saw New Tech East’s design and construction for “The Great ACE Bridge” — a pedestrian bridge the students designed to connect the city of Cleveland with the waterfront — win the program’s top honors. The judging panel consisted of esteemed professionals Jeff Appelbaum, Thompson Hine LLP; Freddy Collier, Jr., Cleveland Planning Director; and Lillian Kuri, Cleveland Foundation.

The ACE Banquet was made possible largely in part to major program supporters University Hospital/Sodexo, Cleveland Foundation, Construction Employers Association and Geis Family Foundation. Congratulations to all ACE students, mentors and teachers on another successful program year! To donate or become involved in the ACE Mentor Program of Cleveland visit: <https://www.acementor.org/affiliates/ohio/cleveland/about-us/>



Top: Students from New Tech advance to dais to receive their award. Bottom: Scholarship awards and checks for ACE students on display at banquet.

Community Calendar

Cleveland’s [Norman S. Minor Bar Association](#) will be chapter host for this year’s Region VI conference of the National Bar Association. The meeting takes place starting Thursday, May 16 and runs through Sunday, May 19. Venues for most events will be the Tucker Ellis LLP and the Aloft Cleveland Hotel.



The **Black Child Development Institute** will host its first annual community resource fair this Saturday from 10:30a-1:30p at Ginn Academy, 655 East 152 St. [44110]. It’s a one day, one stop event providing services and support for those in need of youth mentoring, free and low cost summer camps, and much more. Vendors include Cleveland Inner City Ballet, MLK Premier Boxing Camp for Boys and Girls, and several public and private agencies. It culminates National Black Child Development Week. For more info: call/ email 216.464.3507 / cleveland@affiliates.nbcdi.org or visit [here](#).

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