

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2008

CONTACT: **ACE Academy** | www.acecharterschool.org

Mike Taylor, Director, (503) 546-9928

mtaylor@acecharterschool.org

ACE ACADEMY RECEIVES \$200,000 TECHNOLOGY GRANT FROM MT. HOOD CABLE REGULATORY COMMISSION

Portland, OR – The Academy for Architecture, Construction & Engineering (ACE), the new charter high school scheduled to open this fall, received a major financial boost from the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission with a \$200,000 technology grant. The money is targeted to support ACE’s innovative and integrated curriculum and teaching methodologies – all of which require advanced technical tools to effectively execute.

The grant is \$100,000 per year for two years. These dollars will be invested in developing essential **Wi-Fi access** at ACE’s partnering training facilities – the Northwest College of Construction, Willamette Carpenters Training Center, NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center, and SMACNA HVAC & Metals Institute. Additionally, it will allow for a **laptop** for each teacher and every student learning team as well as provide a **fully equipped computer lab** for the “Project Lead the Way” Engineering lab.

The **Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission is the grantmaking body for the Community Access Capital Grant**. The Commission, created by the cities of Fairview, Gresham, Portland, Troutdale, and Wood Village and Multnomah County, regulates cable television franchises and oversees the grant funds derived from those franchises. *“The Commission supported the ACE’s grant application for its solid plan to use technology to boost student achievement and address teaching needs in a variety of settings,”* stated Norm Thomas, Commission Chair.

ACE Academy will address the learning needs of students by delivering a new technology-infused instructional approach. The program is based on the concept of **“credit by proficiency”**, which measures performance, not ‘seat time’. Students must demonstrate their competency in

specific content areas and will be supported in continuing to work in each area until they can demonstrate competency and receive credit. This will be accomplished by:

- **Relevant, hands-on, technology-rich learning** opportunities that meet targeted students' needs and result in higher numbers of students who complete high school prepared to enter and successfully complete post-secondary learning.
- **Rigorous levels of academic content in the context of applied, integrated learning.** Students will learn in a team environment where relevant, challenging education is customized based upon individual student needs and daily progress.
- The technology necessary for students to access and be successful in mastering rigorous, leading edge curriculum and project –based learning experiences. The technology makes the **just-in-time** variable possible. Without the technology to deliver student-centered instruction, we default to old, ineffective educational models.
- **Accessibility for teachers to do daily assessment** and student support, which enables credit to be awarded according to a student's proficiency, not 'seat time' in a classroom.

Firms and associations in the design-build industry have also pledged their support in dollars, time and professional guidance. The **Associated General Contractors Oregon-Columbia Chapter Foundation** gave its largest one-time grant of **\$30,000** to ACE to cover the costs of tools and materials and the purchase of National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) textbooks. The **Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors of North America Oregon-Columbia Chapter's** board of directors has voted to grant the ACE Academy **\$10,000** to cover operational costs. Additionally, the **American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon (ACEC)**, presented the ACE with a donation of **\$2,500**. The gift was made possible through the collaboration of local firms and ACEC Oregon. Participating firms included **Parametrix, David Evans and Associates, Petersen Structural and CH2M HILL.**

ACE Academy opens fall 2008 to juniors and seniors with an interest in careers in architecture, construction and engineering. Currently there are 135 students enrolled from Parkrose, Gresham-Barlow, Centennial, Centennial Learning Center, Reynolds, Sandy and home schools.

--end--