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ACE ACADEMY THRIVES WITH INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Portland, OR - The Academy for Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE Academy), started as a pathway for students interested in design-build careers and as a conduit for the industry to attract a quality workforce. From early on, industry involvement and support was deemed critical to the success of the program.

The outpour has been tremendous - from financial donations to in-kind contributions; volunteer time in organizing jobsite tour; training center visits; to providing in-person mentoring to our seniors, industry has stepped up to the challenge.

Financially, individual companies, trade/industry associations and foundations have provided cash donations totaling over \$300,000. These monies have been essential in the expensive endeavor of starting a school. Funds have purchased state-of-the-art instructional materials in architecture, engineering and construction. Funds have also allowed for several field trips and student experiences which enrich student learning and connect classroom learning to the world of work in the industry. In-kind contributions have included tools, expertise and professional assistance.

Equally important in the contributions has been industry's time. To get a feel for the real world of the design-build industry, the students visited 22 construction sites, involving over 55 hours of volunteer time from architects and contractors.

ACE Academy is further supported by five training centers who assist with hands-on education. In this capacity, facility partners gave 53 days of assistance, totaling over 239 hours; valued at an estimate of \$15,340. These training centers include: NECA-IBEW Training Center, the Northwest College of Construction, HVAC & Metals Institute, Willamette Carpenters Training Center and the Northwest Labors-employers Training Center.

Countless hours are donated by the staff of the Oregon Building Congress (OBC), the sponsor of the charter school. As the school-to-career arm of the construction industry, OBC has years of

experience partnering with educators to share the opportunities in the design-build world. ACE Academy was a natural progression of OBC's programs and objectives.

As ACE Academy finishes the first milestone of its first semester, it's clear that the public-private partnership is off to a great start. ACE plans to execute a Mentoring and Internship program next - providing students with resources and connections that will go far to strengthen their design-build career explorations.

For more information on ACE Academy, including a photo gallery, please visit www.acecharterschool.org.

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