



## **Ex-superintendent of schools sticks with education**

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BY DJC STAFF

**Company/Agency:** ACE Academy of Architecture, Construction & Engineering

**Title/position:** Director

**Tell the DJC readers about a defining moment or event in your life that shaped you and/or your career.**

It wasn't a moment; it was a process of awaking or realization. I started in construction. My dad was a paving contractor, but he always said, "Keep the options open and do what you want to do, not what you have to do." That's what I have tried to do – keep the next door open and be ready when it opened.

That's also the way I came to ACE. I retired as Superintendent of Parkrose Schools, and ACE was getting off the ground. I have always believed that hands-on learning was missing in our school system and that it would take a major partnership to change that condition. ACE is that partnership, and it is changing that condition.

**Do you have a mentor or personal hero who played a role in helping you become the person and professional you are? Who was it and how did he/she impact your life?**

I have been very fortunate, and I have always worked for and with great people. My first principal was a saint, and he taught me that trust and a man's word and fidelity were his power. I worked for him for 14 years. I also worked for a superintendent who made me want to do my very best work, and he always filtered actions through what best served the children and parents of our school. He showed me the role of solid values and strong moral direction that are needed

in a leadership role. These two men, in addition to my dad, have set my course to most of what I have accomplished.

**What do you think is the biggest challenge facing Portland and/or Oregon with regard to its ability to remain a top player in the areas of sustainability, smart growth, urban planning and/or transportation?**

Like almost any large effort, it is the will of the community and the skill of the leadership. Leaders must continue to provide insight, meaning and direction to the most productive outcomes. We must also maintain our vision on the long-term outcome. It may be tempting in this economic time to seek out long-term goals and long-term need to short-term gains; we need to consider and measure the decisions in both terms.

**With regard to your answer to the previous question, what role do you see yourself playing during the coming year with regard to helping Portland and/or Oregon meet that challenge?**

Our most valuable resource will be our people, and the stronger and better prepared our people are, the better we will all be. I plan to keep my commitment to help build a system that will contribute to the strong preparation of our people (high school students) to a world of work and service. I also want to give students options and opportunities to grow and learn in an environment that best serves their learning needs and styles.

**What do you think is the biggest challenge facing the building industry during the coming year, and how do you see yourself helping the industry overcome that hurdle?**

We are focused on the workforce in the industry. We want to show student opportunities and we want to prepare people for the professional training needed to work in the industry. In addition, we are teaching students in each discipline in the industry to work together and the role of interdependence in the industry. We are doing this by training and educating them in their special interest areas within the same program.

**If it were solely up to you, what project or building would you most like to see happen in the region this year?**

I don't know that I can say; my world may be a little narrow to address that. What will make a major impact on the quality of life for the people of the area? The Interstate bridge.

**What do you think is the biggest obstacle keeping Portland's built environment from moving forward (e.g. the economy, the city's building design-review process, etc.)?**

Today it is most likely the economy. Again, it may be above my pay grade to understand the obstacles.

**Where do you see yourself in the next five years? In the next 10 years?**

If I am not here at ACE, I will be retired for real.

**Please share a little known fact about yourself, something that people might be surprised to know.**

Married 44 years, I have collected and restored Studebakers.