

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRING BREAK '09 - "A TASTE OF ACE"

Portland, OR - A select group of sophomores from five local high schools have elected to spend their Spring Break with the hands-on exploration of design-build careers at the Academy for Architecture, Construction & Engineering. The program runs from March 23 - 27, culminating in a day of awards, projects to take home and hearing from industry professionals about their career passions.

These 16 students are igniting their imaginations through project-based learning - a foundation of the innovative educational approach of ACE Academy. At ACE, students begin to understand the value of math, science, communication and teamwork as it applies to the real world of work.

The week long program is being taught by ACE Academy teachers Doug Mella, Marjan Rotting and Randy Scott. Mr. Mella explains, *"This week sophomores are doing hands-on projects in design, engineering, and construction. By Friday they will have designed and built a real 'mini' office complex. They are experiencing what we mean by 'innovative' education at ACE - and they are accomplishing a lot while having a great time."*

Many of the students attending *"A Taste of ACE"* have applied to ACE Academy, hoping to enter their junior year attending both the ACE Academy charter school and their current high school to create an integrated educational experience.

"A Taste of ACE" has been made possible by program administration from the Oregon Building Congress and through funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation. Additional support is provided by Ace Campus Partner Willamette Carpenters Training Center and industry leaders has come from Cherokee General Corporation, Doyon Project Services, Cisneros Construction, JHI Engineer, Thomas Hacker & Associates, Inc. and K Communications.

The Academy for Architecture, Construction and Engineering was started by the Oregon Building Congress as a pathway for students interested in design-build careers and as a conduit for the industry to attract a quality, diverse workforce. It serves as a public charter high school combining rigorous technical and academic education for juniors and seniors. ACE is located at 4222 NE 158th Ave, Portland, OR, 97230. For more information on ACE Academy, including a photo gallery, please visit www.acecharterschool.org.

ACE Academy - igniting design-build careers through innovative learning!

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