

https://www.massnonprofit.org/expert_advice/fundraising/ace-mentor-program-of-greater-boston-raises-over-537k/article_9707d5c1-cbc6-4d41-874f-792c1703d626.html

ACE Mentor Program of Greater Boston raises over \$537K

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At ACE's recent 2025 fundraiser, guest speakers included, from left, Quyen F. Nguyen of Simpston, Gumpertz & Heger; William Kirchman of Boston Latin Academy; and Jasmine De La Cruz of Somerville High School.

photo: Jacqueline Gundberg Photography

ACE Mentor Program of Greater Boston, has announced the success of its 11th Annual Networking Fundraiser, held on Wednesday, June 12 at the Artists for Humanity EpiCenter. With over 350 attendees across the architecture, construction, and engineering (ACE) industries, the evening raised more than \$537,000, advancing toward the organization's ambitious fundraising target to fund scholarships and support core programming for the 2026 school year.

The evening showcased the transformative impact of ACE's free after-school program, which served over 125 students from 35+ high schools in the Greater Boston area this year. Guests heard firsthand from current and former ACE students, including **Quyen F. Nguyen**, class of 2018, now an Associate Project Consultant at Simpson Gumpertz & Heger (SGH); **William Kirchman**, a Boston Latin Academy graduate headed to Harvard University; and **Jasmine De La Cruz**, a Somerville High School senior preparing to attend Syracuse University.

“The best part of ACE was learning from passionate mentors and collaborating with peers,” said 2025 Program Graduate Jasmine De La Cruz. “It helped me refine my interest in architecture and showed me how design can improve lives, from emergency shelters to public spaces like Porter Square Station.”

“This event is a powerful reminder of the life-changing opportunities our program provides,” said Kristen Hurley, Executive Director of the ACE Mentor Program of Greater Boston. “The support we received from our industry partners and community ensures that we can continue opening doors for the next generation of diverse talent in the built environment and excite students about their careers through hands-on mentorship. And a huge thank you to each of our generous sponsors!”

ACE's annual fundraiser featured moving speeches, a live auction, and networking opportunities with professionals across more than 50 AEC firms. Proceeds will directly support ACE's year-round programming, including scholarships, design challenges, and mentorship that guides students through real-world architectural and engineering projects. During the 2024–2025 program year, ACE Boston awarded \$264,000 in scholarships to 27 graduating seniors, marking a major milestone in the organization's history. Since 2015, ACE Mentor has awarded over \$1.75 million in scholarships thanks to the success of this event.

About ACE Mentor Program of Greater Boston

The ACE Mentor Program of Greater Boston is a volunteer-driven organization that introduces high school students to the professions of architecture, construction management, engineering and the trades. Our flagship program is a free, collaborative afterschool program that convenes students from multiple schools at six sites around Boston as well as virtually. Each year, dozens of volunteers from our industries coach student teams through an end-to-end interdisciplinary design project such as renovating a subway station or improving a neighborhood's resilience to climate change. Students can participate for up to four years, trying out a different “profession” each year or sticking with a topic of compelling interest. In addition to activating student interest in our chosen industries, ACE also curates summer internship opportunities, seeking to drive opportunities within the AEC industry year-round. ACE, along with more than 70 sister chapters nationwide, remains available to its participants for mentoring and professional networking. ACE Greater Boston's goal is to be a lifelong resource for our participants.