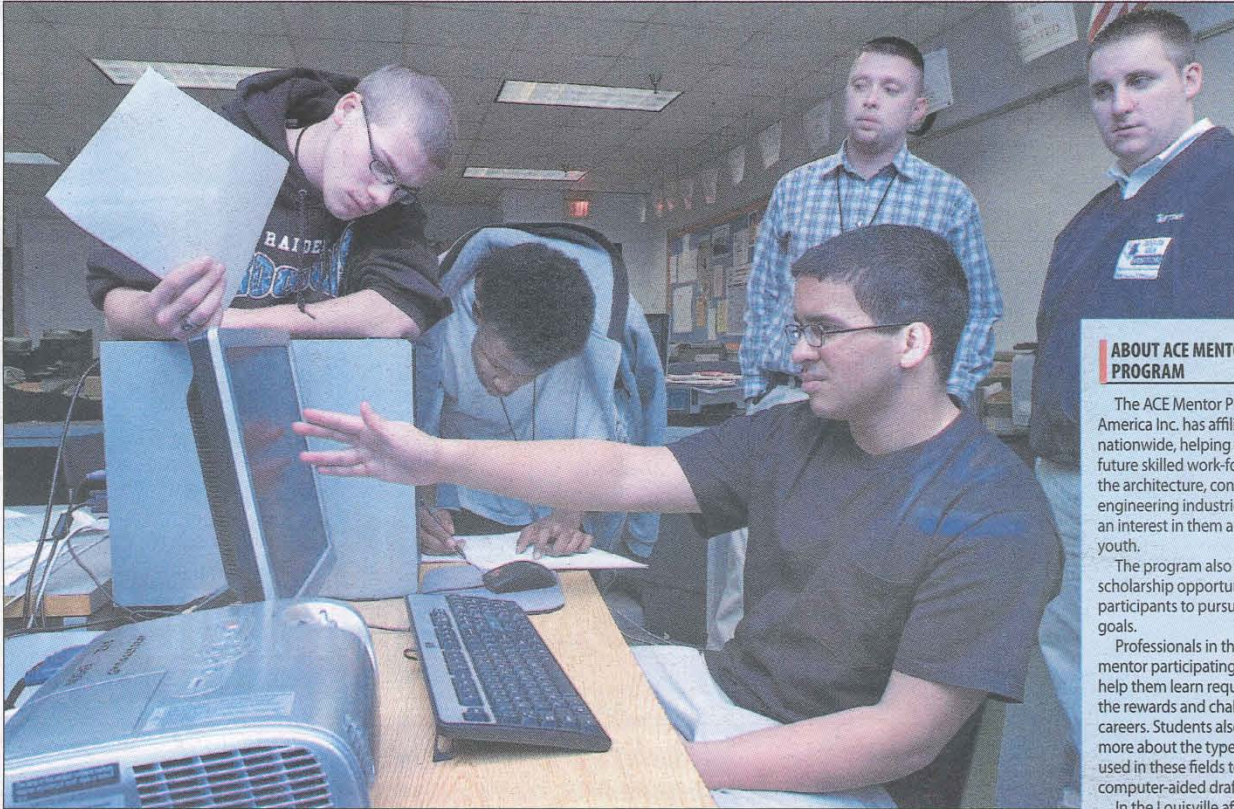




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FIRST HONORS

A Business First special publication that recognizes the achievements of tomorrow's leaders



RON BATH | BUSINESS FIRST

ABOUT ACE MENTOR PROGRAM

The ACE Mentor Program of America Inc. has affiliates nationwide, helping to fulfill the future skilled work-force needs of the architecture, construction and engineering industries by sparking an interest in them among today's youth.

The program also provides scholarship opportunities for participants to pursue these career goals.

Professionals in these industries mentor participating students to help them learn required skills and the rewards and challenges of the careers. Students also get to learn more about the types of technology used in these fields today, such as computer-aided drafting.

In the Louisville affiliate, which was launched in September 2009, local architects, engineers and contractors serve as guest speakers and work with students to complete a team project, which will be presented to families, mentors, teachers and community leaders at a culminating ceremony at the program's conclusion in May.

During their involvement, students also attend field trips to visit major construction firms.

For more information, visit the Web site for the Louisville affiliate at www.acementor.org/696.

SOURCE | WWW.ACEMENTOR.ORG

BUILDING *skills*

Iroquois students learn about construction industry through ACE Mentor Program

BY SHANNON LEONARD-BOONE | CORRESPONDENT
Send comments to cgreer@bizjournals.com

With plans to attend Jefferson Community and Technical College after graduation, Iroquois High School senior Scott Husband, 18, already has been exposed to the ins and outs of the construction industry outside a classroom's confines.

Husband and 16 other Iroquois High School students have been participants in the first-ever class of the ACE Mentor Program's Louisville affiliate, working with professional mentors in the architecture, construction and engineering fields to learn what it takes to do the job and gaining valuable insights and experience along the way.

Husband is not sure what facet of the construction industry he'll pursue, but he said he's impressed with the way computers

help design buildings today, even allowing for virtual tours of unfinished projects.

"I enjoy getting to go on field trips," Husband said. "We get to learn about all the new stuff in construction, the computers. They can show us what things are going to look like, down to the trees."

Expectations are high

Dwayne Rice, vice president of the board of the local ACE Mentor Program affiliate and a project manager for Turner Construction in Louisville, said the program's overriding goal is to spark that kind of interest in students such as Husband.

Rice, who also works as a program mentor, helped initiate the local affiliate along with Jeff Hofmann, a project manager with Hussung Mechanical Contractors Inc. in Louisville.

"The purpose of the program is to help the students who are in-

ACE | B3

Michael Edward, a sophomore at Iroquois High School, gestured toward a building plan being designed by fellow members of the ACE Mentor Program. Bryan Wooten, left, a junior, leaned over to see the image while Anthony Edison, a senior, sketched a change to the plan. Darren Thompson, a maintenance supervisor for MSD, and Dwayne Rice, right, vice chairman of the ACE program, looked on.



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