



A force for positive change in the design/construction industry

**ACE Mentor Program Central Iowa Takes National Title in the
CIRT 2018 Design & Construction Competition**

05/03/2018 - (Washington, DC) - With one heck of a presentation and project, the ACE Mentor team from Central Iowa took home top honors this week, being crowned National Champions of the 12th Annual CIRT Design & Construction Competition. After being selected from a record-setting sixty (60) entries, three teams contended in a presentation round during the CIRT Spring Conference in Washington, DC on April 30, 2018. A distinguished panel of judges headed by **Michael Bellaman**, President & CEO of Associated Builders & Contractors also included: **Kevin Hilton**, CEO of the Ironworkers Management Progressive Action Cooperative Trust (IMPACT); **Patricia Rodgers**, CEO of Rodgers Builders; **Mark Cain**, President of Smoot Corporation; and **Dan Johnson**, President & CEO of Mortenson announced the order of finish as follows:



- 1st PLACE and a prize of \$5,000 went to: **ACE Mentor Program of Central Iowa** for their Flexible Home entry: *“One Shell of a House;”*
- 2nd PLACE and a prize of \$3,000 went to **ACE Mentor Program of Washington (Seattle/Team 2)** for their Urban Block entry: *“Releasing the Dragon;”* and
- 3rd PLACE and a prize of \$2,000 went to **ACE Mentor Program of Central Florida: Lyman H.S. Team** for their Ideal School entry: *“Delta Design.”*

The three presenters representing their ACE Teams for the 12th Annual CIRT National Design & Construction Competition are from L to R: Emily Boodhoo, ACE Central FL – 3rd place; Aaron Koopal, ACE Central Iowa – 1st place National Champion; and Jean Kim, ACE Seattle Team 2 – 2nd place. The competition was held at the Park Hyatt Washington in Washington, DC.

It took the judges two ballots to ultimately determine a winner after carefully analyzing the team presenter’s ability to make a coherent, well thought-out, clear presentation on the

design/construction approaches within the project’s objectives while being fully responsive to the competition package elements in the challenge/RFP. The judging was based on two *major* elements: quality of presentation and competence of the overall entry. The winning entry exhibited an extraordinary versatility and responsiveness to the criteria of the challenge, while remaining within the limits of constructability and budget.

Six other teams were also recognized as either **First Runner-Up** (\$1,000 prize) or **Second Runner-Up** (\$500 prize) in each of the three different design challenges or options. Among this elite group were:

Flexible Home Challenge (which had 29 entries): 1st Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor of Greater NYC/Team 30** for *“Home: the Modular Solution;”* 2nd Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor Program of Eastern PA/Team 10** for *“MUD;”*
Revitalize an Urban Block Challenge (which had 22 entries): 1st Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor of Greater NYC/Team 15** for *“The Atlas District;”* 2nd Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor of Greater NYC/Team 25** for *“Sunrise Garden;”*

Envisioning an Ideal School Challenge (which had 9 entries): 1st Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor Program of New Jersey (Middlesex)**, for “MASGA”; 2nd Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor Program of San Francisco (Cupertino, CA)** for “CPLUC.”

"The energy, enthusiasm, and passion the three national finalist teams brought to the program made it a very special and memorable event; one we were very pleased to host on behalf of the entire design and construction community. If this is any indication of the kind of character and diversity we are attracting to our ranks, then the future of our industry will be in good hands!" stated Mark A. Casso, Esq., NAC, President of CIRT.

The *CIRT National Design & Construction Competition* is a collaborative effort with the ACE Mentor Program of America and the Chicago Architecture Foundation. This year experienced not only a record number of entries but also the highest number of ACE Affiliates represented with a total of 481 students and 297 mentors and professionals participating. The competition was live-streamed for the first-time ever and can be viewed on CIRT's Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/CIRTNews/videos/2130293166985939/>



Construction Industry Round Table

