



**Kalamazoo County Guidance Council**  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2011**  
**12:30-2:30PM**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Laura Cosby, Amy DiMaggio, Becky Edds, Lindsey Lake, Rebecca Learner, Larry Ledlow, Andy Lothschutz, Jason Luke, Judi Metzger, Joyce Ryskamp, Gerielle Stewart, Jayne Stover

**Members Absent:**

Ariel Baker, Bob Barns, Susan Benton, Jodi Dawson, Kris DeRyder, Kares Hanley, Carla Kelly, Patty Landstra, Betsy Ulbrich, Krista Wirt

**Welcome**

Jason welcomed the group.

The group watched a video on "Team Hoyt" and had mini discussions on how we give back to the students we guide.

**ACE**

**Sean Jagels** – ACE program coordinator

Sean came to speak about the ACE program; a volunteer program teaching students about architecture, construction and engineering

The 15 week program will begin at Kalamazoo RESA program on January 12<sup>th</sup> and will include lecture and hands on participation.

Currently the ACE program has 44 slots available. Can pull up to four students from each school, however if one school cannot fill all 4 slots, the opening can be given to another school. Team work is a big part of this program - pick each student wisely, if they are unable to work in a team environment they will not be successful in the program.

Sean asked the counselors to identify 10 to 12 students who may be interested in the program. The ACE group will give a presentation to these students and then select up to four students from each school.

Scholarship available

There is no fee for the program, but the student will have to provide their own transportation.

The program ends with a banquet where the students present their project to the projects they have worked on. They may also be awarded a scholarship.

Attached is the presentation schedule. Please contact Sean regarding the time of the presentation to confirm is good.

**YOU**

Don Edgerly - YOU (division of KRESA)

Don came to present an overview of programs offered by YOU (see attached handouts)

YOU is a federally funded youth program which in 2009 employed over 1,000 kids. Funding has not been available for the last couple of years, but looks like it will next year.

If there is a student you believe could benefit from a YOU program please refer them. The YOU staff will plug them into the right program.

## **KVCC**

Laure Cosby Visit on Friday

*February meeting at Stryker*

Talked about training for the right skills that employers are looking for - more of the "soft skills"

Question to think about: How can we educate the students to get over the stigma of "tech school".

## **MRS/504 students**

Adam Danapilis

Adam spoke about the MRS (Michigan Rehab Services) program.

Any student who has had an IEP or 504 can qualify for this program.

See attached hand.

Need to have an IEP or 504 and a barrier to employment.

Rebecca Hill will be at meeting next month to give more details of the program.

## **KACAN**

Jason introduced Brenda Pickett the new KACAN coordinator for Kalamazoo.

Brenda spoke about herself, her background and what she is planning to do with her position.

Brenda will be contacting the counselors at each school - but if you need her before she get in touch with you please call her.

## **EFE Tours**

The February meeting will be hosted by Stryker.

This meeting will be open to all middle school and high school counselors.

Jason asked everyone to take a look through programs and let him know the top 5 you are interested in seeing more about. The meeting will be highlighting a total of 8 programs and will be broken into two 2.5 hour sessions (morning and afternoon)

The first middle school counselors meeting will be held on November 2, 2011.

## **December PD**

The PD will be held on December 9, 2011 (Friday) and will be long enough to get credits .

Jason asked what topics would be of interest to the councilors. Below are the responses:

- Social networking - and what kids are doing face book/twitter/etc
  - The good and bad ways to use
- Evaluation of being a professional and what tools are going to be used –
  - How to help secure their place in the school

- How to promote themselves to their school administrators
- Show and tell - what does each school do and how they do things (504 set ups, newsletters - document sharing...)

### **Roundtable**

PIV letters:

- parent letter has gone out
- student letters in the next week

If you have a student who needs one call Jen, Jacquelyn or Kris to get info.



**ACE MENTOR PROGRAM**  
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

ACE Mentor Program  
KRESA Consortium  
Student Inquiry Presentations - Scheduled Times

High School	Presentation Date	Presentation Time (Start)	Presentation Time (End)
Schoolcraft High School	Tuesday, November 15, 2011	7:45 AM	8:15 AM
Vicksburg High School	Tuesday, November 15, 2011	9:00 AM	9:30 AM
Climax-Scotts High School	Tuesday, November 15, 2011	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
Portage Central High School	Tuesday, November 15, 2011	12:00 PM	12:30 PM
Portage Northern High School	Tuesday, November 15, 2011	1:15 PM	1:45 PM
Loy Norrix High School	Tuesday, November 15, 2011	2:30 PM	3:00 PM
Gull Lake High School	Wednesday, November 16, 2011	8:00 AM	8:30 AM
Galesburg-Augusta High School	Wednesday, November 16, 2011	9:15 AM	9:45 AM
Comstock High School	Wednesday, November 16, 2011	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
Parchment High School	Wednesday, November 16, 2011	11:45 AM	12:15 PM
Kalamazoo Central High School	Wednesday, November 16, 2011	1:45 PM	2:15 PM

ACE Contact:  
Sean Jagels  
Skanska USA Building  
P: 269-342-5400  
[sean.jagels@skanska.com](mailto:sean.jagels@skanska.com)

# ACE Benefits

Since 1995, more than 30,500 students have had the opportunity to participate in the ACE Mentor Program.

There are plenty of reasons why you should participate in ACE:

- ✔ Career guidance from active professionals
- ✔ Understanding of the building design and construction industry
- ✔ Understanding of the workplace
- ✔ Connections to students and professionals
- ✔ Introduction to college programs
- ✔ Behind-the-scenes access to construction sites
- ✔ Opportunity for internships and post-college employment
- ✔ Opportunity for college scholarships
- ✔ Excellent training in presentation and team building skills

**NEW TEAM NOW  
BEING FORMED  
FOR ALL DISTRICTS IN THE KRESA SERVICE AREA**

Contact your Guidance Counselor  
for more information!

Website:  
[www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org)



**ACE MENTOR PROGRAM**  
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

## ACE MENTOR MICHIGAN

**NEW TEAM NOW  
BEING FORMED  
FOR ALL DISTRICTS IN THE  
KRESA SERVICE AREA**

Contact:  
Sean Jagels  
Skanska USA Building  
(269) 342-5400

Visit the ACE Mentor website  
for more information:

[www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org)

## What is ACE Mentor?

Will there be enough architects, construction managers and engineers to fill the industry's needs ten years from now? The ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc. is working hard to make sure there are. ACE is an acronym for architecture, construction, and engineering.



The program's mission is to enlighten and increase the awareness of high school students to

career opportunities in architecture, construction and engineering and related areas of the design and construction industry through mentoring; and to provide scholarship opportunities for students in an inclusive manner reflective of the diverse school population.

ACE is a unique partnership among industry professionals — architects, interior designers, engineers, construction managers, college and university representatives, and other professionals from related corporations and professional

organizations — who work together to attract young people to their professions. Industry professionals volunteer to become mentors to high school students in order to introduce them to the professions and encourage them to pursue studies and careers in these fields. In return, the industry get a much-needed boost of new talent.



ACE is made up of affiliates that serve youth within a certain city or region. Each affiliate has a board of directors, a local coordinator, and a number of teams.

Teams are composed of 15-25 students and their industry mentors. Each team is set up to emulate an actual design team, with students guided through a mock design project by their architect, engineer, and construction management mentors. Several companies will be assigned to each team, each providing one or two mentors. Mentors guide the students as they work towards a final project, introducing them to the careers, industry vocabulary, and various roles companies play in the construction industry.

At the end of the year, all of the teams, in each location, gather for

a final presentation night. Here they present their designs to other teams, their families, teachers, prospective mentors and the affiliate administrators so all can share in the students' accomplishments.

The students' involvement in the program does not end here, though. Many remain active alumni of the program through the scholarships they receive, relationships they develop with their mentors, and future employment opportunities they exercise — such as internships and post-college jobs.

For more information contact:

Sean Jagels  
Skanska USA Building  
(269) 342-5400



## Sample ACE Mentor Program Announcement

Can you imagine designing a state-of-the-art building? ACE Mentoring Program gives you a hands-on introduction to architecture, construction management and engineering. This after school program matches you with area professionals. Sign up in the counseling office for more details.



## YOUTH PROGRAMS 2011-2012

PROGRAM	PURPOSE	ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	DOCUMENTS NEEDED	BENEFITS TO YOUTH:
<b>WIA YOUTH SERVICES</b>	Provide economically disadvantaged youth with educational support services and training/experience in workforce skill development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth ages 16 – 21</li> <li>• Economically Disadvantaged</li> <li>• Kalamazoo or St. Joseph County resident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Birth Certificate</li> <li>▪ Social Security Card</li> <li>▪ Picture ID</li> <li>▪ Proof of Residency</li> </ul>	School Credit Work Experience Tutoring Supportive Services Work Maturity Skills Occupational Training Scholarship/Financial Aid Asst
<b>(OG) OPERATION GRADUATION</b>	Provide 30 KPS students identified by school counselors as “at risk” for not completing high school with educational support services throughout their high school career.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> grade at time of enrollment into program</li> <li>• KPS student</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transcript</li> <li>▪ Approval from Principal and or Counselor</li> </ul>	School Credit NovaNET Tutoring Job Preparation Study Skills Development
<b>(CRG) CREDIT RECOVERY &amp; GRADUATION</b>	Provide area high school students referred by school counselors with NovaNET on-line credit recovery program services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth ages 14 – 21</li> <li>• Kalamazoo County high school Student</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transcript</li> <li>▪ Student Credit Retrieval Approval form</li> <li>▪ Approval from Dean of Students</li> </ul>	School Credit NovaNET Tutoring Study Skills
<b>EDUCATION RECONNECT</b>	Provide youth that have dropped out of high school with services supporting high school graduation or GED attainment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth ages 16 – 19</li> <li>• High School drop out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Picture ID</li> <li>▪ Social Security Card</li> <li>▪ Transcript</li> <li>▪ Drop Slip</li> </ul>	Enrolling in High School Enrolling in GED program NovaNET Tutoring Study Skills
<b>(KEEP) KALAMAZOO EDUCATIONAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM</b>	Provide educational support and employment placement services to 30 Kalamazoo Promise graduates throughout their freshman year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kalamazoo Promise Recipient</li> <li>• Freshman at either Western Michigan University or Kalamazoo Valley Community College</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Michigan ID</li> <li>▪ Kalamazoo Promise Eligibility Determination</li> <li>▪ Transcript/Report Card/ Grades for Senior Year</li> <li>▪ Attendance of Senior Year</li> </ul>	Enrolling in College Tutoring Study Skills Personal/Career Development Supportive Services Job placement support
<b>KALAMAZOO ADULT EDUCATION</b>  <i>Y.O.U. is a Community Education Center</i>	Provide enrolled youth GED preparation and Adult Basic Education Services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth ages 18 – 21</li> <li>• High School Drop Out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Michigan ID</li> <li>▪ Drop Slip</li> </ul>	Enrolling in GED Program Tutoring Study Skills Obtaining GED

**YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED**  
**422 E. SOUTH ST.**  
**KALAMAZOO, MI 49007**  
**269 349.9676**

# Counselor Guide

## Michigan Rehabilitation Services

### What is MRS?

- Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) partners with individuals and employers to achieve quality employment outcomes and independence for persons with disabilities.
- MRS helps people with disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep a job.
- MRS is a state agency within Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).
- Eligibility for MRS is based on a disability that results in barriers to employment.
- MRS works with a variety of disabilities including physical, emotional, learning, and cognitive impairments.
  - (exception -those who are legally blind are serviced by MCB)
- Individuals seeking MRS services must have an employment-related need and be capable of working in competitive employment.
- All MRS services are individualized and based on student's needs.
- MRS and KRESA have a Third Party Agreement (cash match), which provide special funds for our mutual students.

### The MRS Connection Process

- Student Orientation (in the school in Fall)
- Student Conference with School Staff
- MRS Student Referral Meeting with Transition Liaison
- MRS Intake with Becky Hill, Rehab Counselor
- Psychological Testing (if necessary)
- Vocational Evaluation (if necessary)
- Additional testing/gathering of documentation
- Eligibility is determined
- Individual Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Services are provided
- Employment obtained
- 90 days of follow-up provided
- Case Closure

**October 18, 2011**

**TO: Area Guidance Counselors**

**FR: Brenda Pickett, KACAN Coordinator**

**RE: Kalamazoo Area College Access Network Mission, Vision and Goals**

**Rationale**

- Community leaders in the Greater Kalamazoo area have been working to coordinate and strengthen the region's college-going culture since the Fall of 2005.
- Gaps and a lack of alignment coexist with many valuable college-access resources.
- This patchwork approach is costly, with knowledge about the access to higher education inconsistent across the region and low-income and first-generation students at a disadvantage.
- Hundreds of thousands of dollars in state and federal financial aid resources go unused, and access strategies proven effective in one setting are unknown elsewhere.
- A six-month planning grant from the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) has enabled representatives of area school districts, higher education institutions, business and philanthropic organizations to develop a plan to overcome these challenges of coordination and access.

**Activities**

1. Increasing the percentage of county students applying for and accessing financial aid through expanded FAFSA preparation activities (including a new connection with free Earned Income Tax Credit preparation services) and the provision of data to school counselors regarding students eligible for the state-funded tuition Incentive Program for Medicaid-eligible youth.
2. Expanding awareness and ease of access to private scholarships (both corporate and philanthropic) available to Kalamazoo County students through social media and the creation of a KACAN web site that would provide one-stop information about college financial aid resources.
3. Assisting area businesses and media organization with the implementation of a public outreach campaign that utilizes the KnowHow2Go resources available from the Lumina Foundation and connects with existing efforts to strengthen the region's identity as an education community.

By working across the county's nine school districts, KACAN will help move the college access discussion beyond a focus on the Kalamazoo Promise to the pressing issue of how we secure rising educational levels throughout the region and position it to be more economically competitive in the decades ahead.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:      BRENDA PICKETT**  
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**Cell: 269-270-5396**

# *Real-World Career Experiences* **Exploring**<sup>®</sup>

The Kalamazoo County Bar Association is starting a Law & Government Explorer Post! An Explorer Post is a hands-on program that exposes high school aged participants to many career opportunities.

Youth get to experience firsthand what it's like to serve as a prosecuting and defense attorney; conduct legal research vital to the success of a case; meet with sitting judges who interpret the law every day; visit a jail; and much more...

Youth will develop:

- experiences to begin building their resume'
  - important leadership skills
- an understanding of the importance of teamwork in a professional setting

Youth will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on projects to give them a real feel for whether this career is the right one for them.

Youth will have an opportunity to network with professionals who work in these careers every day – they are using the latest technology, they are aware of emerging trends, they know what it takes to get into college for their specific career.

Youth will learn about the educational requirements for a career in Law & Government and will receive tangible advice on steps youth could take now to prepare and position themselves for a successful career in the field of Law & Government.

**There will be an informational meeting and tour of the Juvenile Home for both youth and adults on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Please contact Rachel Kasper at (269) 343-4687(Boy Scouts of America) or Jim Shinar at (269) 382-8740 if you know of a high school student that would be interested or for any additional information.**

