



A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

“1 October Memorial” Takes Home First Place for Nevada Students in CIRT’s National Design + Construction Competition

April 25, 2022 - Washington, DC: The student mentor team from Southern Nevada/Las Vegas pulled-off a nearly unprecedented feat by claiming first place in the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT) *National Design + Construction Competition* for the second year in a row. This time, a different group of students and mentors from the same ACE Mentor of America Affiliate were able to claim the \$5,000 top prize with their submission in the Memorial of the Future category called “1 October Memorial” in remembrance of the tragic events surrounding the Route 91 Harvest Festival. The senseless act of violence that would end up taking the lives of 60 concert goers and injure over 500 people became a source of the “Vegas Strong” inspiration. The student entry envisioned a memorial serving as a space of commemoration, reflection, and remembrance which will enshrine the identities of the victims and provide a space for anyone to reflect and remember.

Three “Worthy Finalist” teams competed in the presentations round before a live audience and five judges to vie for top honors. The 16th annual competition was part of the CIRT’s spring conference held in the Washington, D.C. metro area. The finalist teams survived the continued challenges of the pandemic and shutdowns, in addition to a grueling preliminary round that included 28 entries, from 15 ACE Mentor Program of America Affiliates. The presentations were made to a distinguished panel of judges headed by Dave Mahoney, CIRT Board Member (Dewberry), that included: Scott Moss (Moss Construction Group), Gayle Packer, (Terracon), Mike Heitmann (Garney Companies, Inc.), and Bob Raney (Travelers Group Insurance).

The order of finish for the competition was:

- First Place and a prize of \$5,000 went to: **ACE Mentor Program of Southern Nevada, Maverick Design Team** for their Memorial of the Future entry;
- Second Place and a prize of \$3,000 went to: **ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, Creekside Senior National Team** for their Strong + Sustainable entry; and
- Third Place and a prize of \$2,000 went to: **ACE Mentor Program of Houston, Violet Visionaries Team** for their Urban Renewal entry.

After carefully analyzing the presentations as well as the underlying entry’s design/construction approaches within the project’s objectives, the 5- judge panel balanced the outcome on the basis of the two *major* elements: quality of presentation and competence of the overall entry. The winning team’s solution exhibited a comprehensive thoughtful response to the criteria of their challenge, by incorporating major elements in their proposal/response, such as: (i) advantageous site selection, (ii) careful detail to the elements in the memorial design, and (iii) use of layout and flow to enhance the experience and functionality. These elements resulted in a realistic detailed cost estimate and constructability of the project that the community could pursue.

Six other teams were also recognized in the 2022 competition 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:

Memorial of the Future Challenge (out of 6 entries): 1st Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor Program of Milwaukee**; 2nd Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor Program of San Diego**;

Strong + Sustainable Challenge (out of 7 entries): 1st Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor Program of Southern Nevada, Team 2**; 2nd Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor Program of Southern Nevada, Team Next Gen**;

Urban Renewal Challenge (out of 15 entries): 1st Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor Program of Polk County, FL**; 2nd Runner-Up: **ACE Mentor Program of West Michigan, Grand Rapids**.

The CIRT National Design & Construction Competition is a collaborative effort with the [ACE Mentor Program of America](#).