

From the Founder and CEO

Look what you make possible with your investment in ACE!

2023 was a year of accomplishments. We launched the Coffee Challenge Campaign to engage new monthly donors, brought you into conversations through regular opportunities to engage with us, and held our first Donor and Staff Appreciation reception to celebrate your continuing support.

Looking forward, I am excited to announce our first annual ACE Alumni Professional Development Conference on October 26, 2024. The Coffee Challenge will be launched for its second year this spring. In this issue, you will get a glimpse of how our alums are thriving professionally—all as a result of your generous support.

Thank you for making a path for young people to pursue their dreams and careers.

With gratitude,



Lorita Williams
CEO and Founder



On January 5, 2024, ACE recognized all of you and our hardworking staff with a reception! Some of our alumni joined us to show first-hand appreciation for their experience with ACE Coaches. The evening represented a way for everyone to share the accomplishments of the past few years and honor those who make it possible for students to succeed in their educational goals. The alumni spoke of the confidence they gained through the ACE lessons of time management, goal setting, self-direction, and knowing they could reach out for help throughout their college careers.

Michelle Zimmerman brings her finance experience to ACE board

Join us in welcoming Michelle. She is an experienced finance and accounting professional who has worked in corporate accounting for over ten years. Responsible for preparing the financial statements of several



\$5 million to \$30 million corporations, she has led cost-

saving initiatives, completed several accounting-system migrations, and managed external audits and banking relationships. Michelle earned her MBA from Boston University and has experience assisting nonprofits throughout her career. She is grateful to bring her energy and resources to the ACE mission and help students build their futures with the ACE team.

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION: Jesus Martinez found his dream

Meet Jesus Martinez, Senior Management and Budget Consulting Analyst with Philadelphia financial advisors PFM.



Jesus received his B.A. in Legal Studies from Ithaca College in 2017 and went on to earn his Master's in Public Affairs from Brown University in 2021.

At PFM, his team collaborates with state and local governments to address fiscal stability through policy. **“My ACE Coach and the entire MGH and ACE teams fueled my curiosity and encouraged me to explore classes at Ithaca that focused on political**

“My journey at PFM and my aspirations to become an influential leader in public policy were significantly shaped by the guidance I received during high school and my early college years from ACE Coaches.”

– Jesus Martinez

science and public policy,” he said.

“My journey at PFM

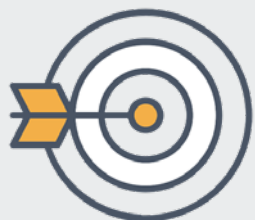
and my aspirations to become an influential leader in public policy were significantly

shaped by the guidance I received during high school and my early college years from ACE Coaches,” Jesus said. It was their unwavering support for his passions and their well-structured academic programs that ensured his success.

Jesus said that the people at ACE “paved the way for me to address complex issues benefitting vulnerable populations and to strive for better governance for all.”

Thank you for helping Jesus build his dream and bring his skills to helping others in his community.

By the numbers



85%

of ACE graduates will graduate above a 3.0 CUM GPA.

374

students have been coached since 2012 – and counting.



20

students are graduating in May 2024: **2 more** graduated in Dec. 2023!