

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2014

Contacts:

Tori Stephens-Shauger, ACE Co-founder and Principal

[tori@aceleadership.org](mailto:tori@aceleadership.org)

Tony Monfiletto, ACE Co-Founder

[tony@leadership-pdc.org](mailto:tony@leadership-pdc.org)

## FIRST ACE LEADERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CELEBRATES ALTERNATIVE SUCCESS

*76 graduates to take the stage 7pm Friday, May 30 at National Hispanic Cultural Center*

**ALBUQUERQUE** – Seventy-six Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Leadership School students will walk across the stage to accept their diplomas at 7pm on May 30 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center proving that they can be successful by taking their own path to education.

These students are the first graduates of ACE, one of two – soon to be three – schools in the Leadership High School Network. The Leadership High Schools are designed to reengage students who have not been served by the traditional school system through project-based learning that provides active, hands-on, and relevant educational experiences. All students benefit from small class sizes, individualized attention and the ability to work in groups with peers.

To best serve its students, ACE Leadership High School’s curriculum was designed with input from the building industries; projects and performance assessments are guided by what graduates need to demonstrate to be successful in the industry. As students complete the projects, they also gain knowledge, skills and work habits that will help them be successful, regardless of their future career plans.

**“Our students do not perform well on standardized tests,”** says the Leadership High School Network cofounder Tony Monfiletto. **“However, they excel at working in teams, serving a real-life client, and looking out for one another. They’ve learned that education can be a positive experience that benefits them in relevant ways.”**

Some of the graduating students will share their stories at the event. Other speakers include Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry, Shad James of Jaynes Corporation and ACE School Board President Maria Guy.

The public is welcome to attend. Please RSVP with Tori Stephens-Shauger at [tori@aceleadership.org](mailto:tori@aceleadership.org).

###

The Leadership High School Network was created in 2009. It is designed to meet the academic needs of students who did not thrive in a traditional school setting, and to respond to the employment needs of key industries in New Mexico. Network schools are developed with input from key industry experts who help ensure teaching is relevant and cutting edge. Currently schools include ACE Leadership High School, founded in 2010 and Health Leadership High School, founded in 2013. Technology Leadership High School is expected to open for students in 2015.