

## Williamson high school students pitch exhibit to zoo

Jen Todd, [jtodd1@tennessean.com](mailto:jtodd1@tennessean.com) 11:44 a.m. CDT April 30, 2015



(Photo: Alan Poizner)

The Nashville Zoo was pitched a new idea for an exhibit, thanks to 19 Williamson County high school students.

The students, who are involved in the ACE (architecture, construction or engineering) Mentor Program, presented the plan for a native Tennessee wildlife exhibit to Dale McGinnity, curator of Ectotherms, at the Nashville Zoo on April 22.

"If the Zoo goes forward with their concept, the thinking these young professionals-to-be have done, as well as the detailed preliminary narratives, site plans and 3-D model they've created, will hopefully help better refine the educational exhibit and aid in securing the funds necessary to build it," team leader Brittany Shepherd, an estimating engineer with [Turner Construction Company](#) and representative of the [Nashville ACE affiliate](#), said in a prepared statement.

The Tennessee Aquatic Conservation Center would provide a look at the state's wildlife before European immigrants arrived and focus on endangered species. It would also include a facility for breeding and scientific studies, and be open for

patrons to view.

The team included Lukas Barr, Jonathon Cole, Ryley Fodra, Stedman Howard, Claudia Santiago, Elijah Slaughter, Seth Thomason and Cross Yang of Independence High School; Nicholas Buhl, A.J. Fekete and William Woods of Centennial High School; Matthew Crispi of Summit High School; Lillian Powell of Page High School; and Jack Butler, Kyra Frank, Jacob Hunter, Francis Nunez, Austin Pytleski and Matthew Yeomans of Franklin High School.

Mentor companies were [Turner Construction](#), [Envision Advantage](#), [Johnson Johnson Crabtree Architects](#), [Littlejohn](#) and [Stanley D. Lindsey & Associates](#).

For more information about the ACE Mentor Program, visit [www.acementor.org](http://www.acementor.org).



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