

From IPS Classrooms to Leading a Company: Alumnus C. Shane Conner Gives Back Through Rebuilding Stronger

September 17, 2025

Shane Conner isn't just running a company — he's giving back to the schools that shaped him.

As president and CEO of Advanced Technologies in Electrical and Communications, Inc. (ATEC), Conner is leading a company that's helping Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) reimagine classrooms as part of the district's \$410 million 2023 Capital Referendum, which is helping to improve school buildings throughout the district.



ATEC, based in Lebanon and serving the Indianapolis area, does a little bit of everything in the building world — from electrical and communication contracting to construction and engineering solutions.

What makes this project special is who's doing the work. ATEC is one of dozens of XBE-certified firms — companies owned by women, veterans, minorities, and people from disadvantaged backgrounds — partnering with IPS.

Conner's firm is currently working at Broad Ripple Middle School, focusing on the integration of modern technology into classrooms to enhance teaching and learning.

"As an MBE/VBE/DBE-certified firm, we are proud to represent diverse businesses and advocate for inclusive opportunities within IPS," Conner said. "My family was among the first Hispanic families to attend IPS, and I've seen firsthand how important it is for the district to support diversity and equity in its partnerships."

For Conner, it's all deeply personal. His story started at Ernie Pyle School 90, and now he's part of a team reshaping the same kind of classrooms where he once sat.

"As a proud alumnus of Indianapolis Public Schools, I can confidently say that IPS played a foundational role in shaping both my personal and professional journey," Conner said. "Being part of IPS's Rebuilding Stronger initiative and witnessing the integration of modern technology into classrooms is a full-circle moment. It's a testament to how far the district has come and how committed it is to preparing students for the future."

He recalls classroom moments that remain vivid decades later.

"My time at Ernie Pyle School 90 is filled with vivid memories — from making homemade butter in kindergarten to the inspiring teachers who guided me along the way," Conner said. "These experiences were more than just moments; they were the building blocks of my character and ambition."

One educator who left a lasting impression was Conner's third-grade teacher, Mrs. Black.

"Her unwavering standards and commitment to excellence instilled in me a strong sense of discipline and accountability — traits that have served me well throughout my life," he said.

Those lessons and encouragement from teachers who noticed his math skills inspired Conner to pursue a career in electrical contracting and eventually start his firm. His mother, also an IPS graduate, remains a role model.

"Inspired by my mother, I wanted to create a business that helps others, just as our community and the IPS school corporation enabled her as a single mother of three children," Conner said.

Today, ATEC's work spans multiple IPS sites, including Broad Ripple Middle School, Eleanor Skillen School 34, Arlington Middle School, Arsenal Tech High School, Carl Wilde School 79, and George Washington High School.

Conner's company is leading a major electrical overhaul at Broad Ripple Middle School, where crews are replacing all of the electrical switchgear and panels, upgrading the entire lighting system. These improvements ensure that the building has a safe, reliable, and modern electrical infrastructure to meet the needs of today's classrooms.

At other IPS schools, the firm has focused on updating lighting, upgrading fire alarm systems, and supporting HVAC improvements to provide more efficient heating and cooling. Across all projects, the company's work centers on modernizing existing electrical systems so schools have dependable power and bright, energy-efficient LED lighting that creates better environments for teaching and learning.

Looking back, Conner credits IPS for preparing him for a life of leadership and community impact.

"My advice for current and future IPS students: Find what you love, pursue it with passion, and never stop learning. Hard work truly equals success." ###

**15+**

Choice Offerings

**2500+**

Caring Educators

**30,000+**

Current Scholars

Get in Touch!

Whether by phone, email or in-person we're here to help! If you have questions, please tell us how we can help.



120 E. Walnut St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: 317.226.4000
[Contact Us Here](#)

Office Hours: M-F: 8 a.m. –
4:45 p.m.
Phone Hours: M-F: 6 a.m. – 6
p.m.