

Spotlight on Commercial Contractors of Southwestern Illinois

Contegra design/build advances icon Mechanical’s new expansion

A business expansion can be daunting to contemplate, but especially so during a pandemic. But icon Mechanical is no ordinary business. Since its founding in 1995, it has been one of the nation’s most innovative design-build and prefabrication/modularization mechanical engineering firms. So its thoughtful approach to fortifying its culture and mission in a new Granite City headquarters required the most skilled and collaborative builders in the region. It turned to Contegra Construction’s design/build services to orchestrate the effort.

“We’ve worked with Contegra on innumerable projects locally and nationally and know that its dedication to precision delivers on desired outcomes,” said Tim Schaeffer, one of icon’s founders. “From the very start of planning, Contegra understood our goals for the new headquarters.”

Those initial meetings are always the start of many “listen to understand” moments in the Contegra design/build process. It begins the strategic formulation and coalescing of a skilled team of engineers, architects and subcontractor who “buy in” to the vision — and the budget to execute that vision. Using Revit 3-D Modeling, icon coordinated all building systems allowing the team to mold and shape the building to deliver on expectations. Most importantly, the design/build team members were encouraged to bring their best ideas to the table.




The vision taking shape is the two-story, 40,800-square-foot headquarters that will be completed in May of this year and includes:

- An atrium of polished concrete bathed in natural light from skylights and featuring an assembly room with “living room” seating for company gatherings and celebrations;
 - A perimeter of glass walled offices to allow more light to reach into the building core;
 - LED lighting throughout and open interior workspace with clear sightlines to facilitate collaboration;
 - Exposed structural steel and ventilation systems in the ceiling as a nod to its industrial clients and icon’s prowess in HVAC systems. Likewise, two stairways feature structural steel handrails; and
 - A room dedicated to showcasing advanced HVAC products that deliver greater energy efficiency
- The building is constructed of tilt-up panels and designed to blend in with icon’s nine-building campus. In addition to icon, which is bringing all of its experience to bear on mechanical components, the design/build team includes Juneau Associates, civil engineer; Gray Design Group, architecture and interior design; Alper Audi, structural engineer; and a host of highly proficient subcontractors. All are local firms, expressing icon’s confidence in the region’s skilled construction community. All are also optimizing the value of their skilled and safe workforce.
- For Contegra, it’s exciting to unite such a skilled team through design/build and help a valued partner like icon create new space that will shape the next generation of energy efficient and sustainable mechanical systems.

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Poettker Construction wraps \$31.5m project for Richland County School District

Richland County Community Unit 1 recently completed a \$31.5 million addition and renovation of Richland County High School located in Olney.

Construction Manager Poettker Construction Co. and designer BLDD Architects were engaged to modernize the education facility, improve safety and security, and increase accessibility for the 2,400-plus student district, while creating a 21st Century learning environment for the students, staff, and community.

“The mission of the school district is to create a partnership with families to ensure a safe and engaging learning environment that provides students with opportunities for academic success,



Richland County High School

career readiness and life-long learning,” states Chris Simpson, superintendent of Richland County High School. “Our community is excited for the completion of this project by Poettker and BLDD Architects that will bring a modern

learning environment to our student.”

The renovation of Richland County High School included demolition of an aging auditorium and classroom areas; a new single main entrance for enhanced safety and security; major accessibility, architectural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades; and installation of a new fire sprinkler and alarm system. A new wing was constructed utilizing precast concrete and features a new auditorium, fine arts theater, cafeteria, kitchen, common areas, and an auxiliary gymnasium.

“Richland County has been a great teammate to work with from the beginning to the end of this project, both from a school and community stand-

point,” said Jon Carroll, vice president of Project Management for Poettker Construction. “We are proud of the project’s success and look forward to continuing our great relationship with Richland County into the future.”

Richland County Community Unit 1 conducted district facility studies and community engagement sessions over a two-year duration to determine the best long-range plan.

The addition and renovation of the nearly 70-year-old campus was implemented in a multi-phase, 18-month schedule to minimize the impact on students and maximize construction activities during the summers and extended breaks.





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