



Mechanical Engineering  
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

## **William Chase Canfield, III**

*Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2019*

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 1975

*Chairman and CEO (Retired)*

Hi-Tech Electric, Inc.

Chase Canfield was born and raised in Houston, Texas with a strong influence in engineering. His father and grandfather were both Electrical Engineers from Purdue University, where his grandfather was a professor for many years. After graduating from Memorial High School, he attended The University of Texas and received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering with Honors.

In 1975, he began his career in Houston with Brown & Root as a project engineer in the oil & gas division, where he was responsible for project delivery of offshore production facilities in the Gulf of Mexico.

In 1978, he left to work for an electrical contractor and engineering firm, Fisk Electric. He spent his first 5 years as a project manager and completed many successful projects, including a Phenol Plant for General Electric in Mount Vernon, Indiana and the iconic 56 story Republic Bank Center in downtown Houston, before being promoted to Regional Vice President in Dallas.

In 1984, he left Fisk to start Hi-Tech Electric Inc, an electrical contracting and engineering firm. Hi-Tech Electric opened its doors in February of 1985 in Dallas, TX. He expanded the business to Houston in 1986 and to New Orleans in 1989.

Under Chase's leadership, Hi-Tech Electric grew into one of the leading commercial and industrial electrical contracting firms in the country. Hi-Tech Electric has been recognized as one of the top 100 electrical contracting firms in the country by ENR Magazine every year since 1996 and has completed over 5,000 projects totaling over \$1.5B along the gulf coast.

Chase has always been grateful for the education he received at The University of Texas and has supported the university in many ways. He established the Chase and Jana Canfield Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Engineering for ME students and served 4 years on the Mechanical Engineering External Advisory Council (EAC).

Chase married his high school sweetheart, Jana, in 1974; they have been married for 45 years and have 4 children, 3 daughter-in-laws, a son-in-law and 13 grandchildren. He retired in January of 2019 and is enjoying time with his family between Houston and the Hill Country.