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Houston-area execs named 2022 EY Entrepreneur of the Year Central South finalists

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Executives from 39 companies have been named finalists for the Central South Region in Ernst & Young's 2022 Entrepreneur of the Year.

Of those, 18 executives are from 15 Houston-area companies. The other companies on the list are based in Austin, Brenham, San Antonio and Hutto, Texas. The Central South region also includes Louisiana and Mississippi, according to EY's website, but no executives from those states made the cut.

Previously, Central Texas was separate from what was then known as the Gulf Coast region. In announcing the Central South finalists, EY did not address the change. North and West Texas are in the Central Plains region,



which also includes Arkansas,
Oklahoma and Wichita, Kansas.

COURTESY ACADEMY SPORTS &
OUTDOORS

Ken Hicks, chairman and CEO of
Academy Sports & Outdoors

The local 2022 Central South finalists
(listed in alphabetical order by
company) are:

Ken Hicks, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Katy
Michael Novelli, Cypressbrook Co., The Woodlands
Feras Moussa and Ben Suttles, Disrupt Equity, Houston
Rupesh Sanghavi, ErgodE Inc., Houston
Kip Wright, Genuent, Houston
Craig Taylor and Tejpal Singh, Iapetus Holdings LLC, Houston
Jamie Welch, Kinetik Holdings Inc., Houston (formed via the merger
of Houston-based Altus Midstream Co. and Midland, Texas-based
BCP Raptor Holdco LP)
Chris Church, MacroFab Inc., Houston
R. Bruce Northcutt, Navitas Midstream Partners, The Woodlands
(acquired by Houston-based Enterprise Products Partners LP in a
\$3.25 billion deal, which closed in February)
Dr. Juliet Breeze, Next Level Medical LLC, Houston (parent company
of Next Level Urgent Care)
Elliott Bouillion, Resource Environmental Solutions LLC, Bellaire
Hal Brumfield and Carter Old, Tachus LLC, The Woodlands
Bart Caraway, Third Coast Bancshares Inc., Humble
Marcie Peters, United Salt Corp., Houston
Ting Qiao, Wan Bridge, Houston

The other 2022 Central South finalists are:

Thomas Thill, AmeriVet Veterinary Partners, San Antonio
Dr. Amy Myers, AMMD LLC, Austin
Timothy Porter, Appddiction Studio, San Antonio
Blake Brannon, Brannon Industrial Group, Brenham
Amber Glassman, Bryan Anthonys, Austin
Cory Brymer, BryComm, Hutto
David Ferguson, Celebrate Dental & Braces, San Antonio
Kiwi Camara, Disco, Austin
Paul Salisbury, Dura Software, San Antonio
Dean Drako, Eagle Eye Networks, Austin
Mark Floreani, FloSports, Austin
Kevin Pearce and Brian White, Goodside Health, Austin

Joyce Durst, Growth Acceleration Partners, Austin

Tim Heyl, Homeward, Austin

Michael Gonzales, Hospitalists Now Inc. d/b/a HNI Healthcare,
Austin

Joel Kocher, HumanN Inc., Austin

Todd Dipaola, InMarket, Austin

William Chan, Iodine Software, Austin

Evan Erdberg, Proximity Learning Inc., Austin

JeVon McCormick, Scribe Media, Austin

James Garvey, Self Financial, Austin

Ted Ross, SpyCloud, Austin

Amanda Baldwin and Holly Thaggard, Supergoop!, San Antonio

Paul Hedrick, Tecovas, Austin

The finalists were selected by a panel of independent judges and evaluated based on their demonstration of long-term value through entrepreneurial spirit, purpose, growth and impact, among other core contributions and attributes, EY said.

“The 2022 Entrepreneur Of The Year finalists have shown us that ambition, courage, ingenuity and empathy are key to driving change,” said Travis Garms, Central South program co-director. “They have a mindset that drives them to strive for more and an unwavering commitment to their companies, customers and communities.”

Winners of the regional awards will be announced on June 23 and will compete in the Entrepreneur of the Year National Awards, presented in November. The Entrepreneur of the Year National Overall Award winner will move on to the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award in June 2023.

Last year, all but one of the Gulf Coast Area winners were based in Houston, as were most of the finalists. In 2020, all of the eight winners were from Houston-area companies. In 2019, seven of the 10 winners were based in the Houston area. In 2018, Houston-area businesspeople won eight of the 10 categories. In 2017, Houston business leaders won all but one of the categories. In 2016, seven out of 10 winners were from the Houston area. Houston business leaders also dominated the regional awards in 2015 and swept all of the categories in 2014.

The Houston Business Journal will also celebrate dozens of local business leaders in its annual Most Admired CEO awards later this year. [Click here to nominate a CEO](#) — the deadline is May 13.

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