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Minority businesses recognized

William Pack - Express-News

After six years of work promoting the development of minority-owned businesses in the area, Hector E. Garcia said he was humbled by winning the Minority Business Development Agency's executive director's award this year.

“I never knew that doing what I do would get that kind of recognition,” said Garcia, a San Antonio certified public accountant who has supported minority businesses through the Southwest Minority Supply Development Council.

He was one of 11 individuals and businesses that won minority business awards this year as part of the University of Texas at San Antonio's and the U.S. Small Business Administration's Minority Enterprise Development Week.

Garcia and the other winners were recognized at a kickoff event Monday.

Other awards went to Mary Ellen Trevino, owner and founder of P3S Corp. as small-business person of the year; Casias Construction as construction firm of the year; Tejas Premier Building Contractor as emerging contractor of the year; AQTS Home Health as health care firm of the year and PRA Destination Management as entrepreneur of the year.

Also winning were VMW Maintenance Solutions as service firm of the year; Hispanic Contractors Association de San Antonio as the contracting advocate of the year; Frost Bank as banking and finance advocate of the year; Today's Automotive as retail firm of the year and Foster Quan as the professional services firm of the year.

UTSA's Minority Business Enterprise Center has sponsored the program for 27 years to recognize accomplishments of minority entrepreneurs and their advocates. An awards luncheon for the winners will be Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the AT&T Community Centre at San Fernando Cathedral.