

Extraco Banks awards \$25,000 and mentorship to Central Texas business

WACO, Texas, October 28, 2021—On October 21st, Extraco Banks announced Champions Salon & Barber as the winner of the 2021 Extrapreneur Award Program, which provides Central Texas entrepreneurs and small business owners a chance to win up to \$26,000 in cash prizes, along with mentorship and business consultation for an entire year. Champions Salon & Barber was among more than 45 businesses across the Central Texas area that applied for the award program.

“We continue to be impressed with applications received from Central Texas businesses for the Extrapreneur Award,” said **Chris Kincaid, Corporate Executive Vice President and Chief of Strategic Design for Extraco Banks**. “This annual competition award shines a light on the economic development and job growth small businesses have in our communities. We couldn't be more pleased for Champions Salon & Barber to be this year's winner. They have trained more than 90 new barbers. We look forward to providing mentoring and business consultations to their team throughout 2022.”

Champions Salon & Barber was founded in 2018 and is based out of Waco, Texas. Champions currently has two barber locations and a barber academy with the goal to produce licensed barbers. The company's foundation is built on inspiring and nurturing a fun and positive workplace environment for their employees, brand ambassadors, managing partners and students. Champions supports their employees and community in various ways, including a scholarship program for their barber academy and credit bureau reporting to help students build credit. Champions is proud to be an industry leader for barber academy passing rate.

“The whole experience with Extraco Extrapreneur Award Program was exhilarating,” said Kevin Gritten, co-owner of Champions Salon & Barber. “Extraco always delivers a top-notch, first class experience from start to finish and helps organizations push to the next level of excellence. We are proud that we have a bank that aligns with our company's core values of building people's dreams. We are also beyond excited and appreciative of the 1-year mentoring that we'll receive, along with the great resources Extrac will introduce us to so that we can impact and elevate other people's lives.”

Each finalist team participated in a “Shark Tank®” pitch event on October 14th and the pitches were evaluated by Extraco executive leaders on four elements: mission & vision, economic catalyst, viable/executable, and overall idea.

Of the seven finalists, Shipwreck Grill, Champions Salon & Barber, and Bulldog Auto Detailing were named Regional Winners and walked away with \$5,000 and six months of mentoring each. The remaining finalists, Pop's Lemonade, Axle Box Innovations, Nickell Metalsmiths, Waco Cha, and Lights of West, were awarded three months of mentoring and \$1,500 each. Bulldog Auto Detailing walked away with an additional \$1,000 for winning People's Choice Social Media Award.

Extraco is committed to building people, businesses and communities in the Central Texas area. For more information about the annual Extrapreneur Award, visit extracobanks.com/extrapreneur.

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About Extraco Banks®

Extraco Banks and its affiliate companies are dedicated to building people, businesses and communities. Since the Great Recession, Extraco has extended over \$2 billion in loans to 25,000 customers, while financially supporting over 1,275 community organizations working to create economic vibrancy, job growth and overall quality of life to our communities across central Texas. Founded as a cotton warehousing company, Extraco, with more than \$2 billion in assets, is the largest and most comprehensive locally owned bank between Dallas and Austin, serving over 120,000 customers' banking, mortgage, insurance and wealth & trust needs with creative and innovative excellence. Learn more at: <https://www.extracobanks.com/>.

About Champions Salon & Barber

At Champions, we inspire and nurture every champion to “be a champion.” Champions offers unwavering commitment to quality and excellence from exceptional and breakthrough products to high touch services and experiences by their passionate educators, service providers, and students. Champions nurtures and develops world-class talent and looks for ways to identify and harness the strengths of their talented employees. Learn more:

<https://www.championssalonandbarber.com/>.

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