

STORIES / NEWS

## Here's who won the Entrepreneur Center's NEXT Awards



Travis Messina, CEO of Contessa Health, was named Entrepreneur of the Year at the Nashville Entrepreneur Center's NEXT Awards on Oct. 25.

Martin B. Cherry | Nashville Business Journal

A CEO who just sold his startup for \$250 million and the leaders of two software coding bootcamps headlined the award-winners at the Nashville Entrepreneur Center's annual NEXT Awards.

The Oct. 25 event, which drew a crowd of hundreds to downtown's Schermerhorn Symphony Center, also honored [four new inductees to the EC's Entrepreneurs Hall of Fame](#).

Here's who else was recognized as among the region's top founders, startups and entrepreneurial-minded businesses. Most categories recognized an "emerging" awardee (less than \$1 million annual revenue) as well as a "market mover" (north of \$1 million in annual revenue):

**Entrepreneur of the Year:** [Travis Messina](#), CEO, Contessa Health ([acquired](#) for \$250 million mid-summer)

**Emerging Entrepreneur of 2021:** [Joshua Mundy](#), CEO and co-founder, Pivot Technology School



Joshua Mundy of Pivot Technology School  
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## Technology

Emerging: CodeX Academy (co-founders [Phil Henry](#), [Christian Morsing](#), [Byron Sommardahl](#))

Market Mover: Stratasan (co-founders [Jason Moore](#), [Brian Dailey](#))

## **Health care**

Emerging: Advocatia (co-founders [Ryan Brebner](#), [Laura Robbins](#))

Market Mover: MediCopy (founder [Elliott Noble-Holt](#))

## **Real estate, Hospitality and Construction**

Emerging: Pillars Development (founder [Ed Henley](#))

Market Mover: Certified Construction Services (co-founders [Jared Bradley](#), [Ashley Bradley](#), [Scott DeLano](#))

## **Products, Services and Retail**

Emerging: Granite Test Prep (founder [Grantly Neely](#))

Market Mover: Thistle Farms (founder Rev. [Becca Stevens](#); CEO [Hal Cato](#))

## **Music, Sports and Entertainment**

Emerging: Bauer Entertainment Marketing (founder [Brian Bauer](#))

Market Mover: [mtheory Nashville](#) (founder [Cameo Carlson](#))

[https://www.bizjournals.com/nashville/inno/stories/news/2021/10/27/entrepreneur-center-next-awards.html?utm\\_source=st&utm\\_medium=en&utm\\_campaign=ae&utm\\_content=na&ana=e\\_na\\_ae&j=25487736&senddate=2021-10-27](https://www.bizjournals.com/nashville/inno/stories/news/2021/10/27/entrepreneur-center-next-awards.html?utm_source=st&utm_medium=en&utm_campaign=ae&utm_content=na&ana=e_na_ae&j=25487736&senddate=2021-10-27)