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From the Nashville Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/nashville/news/2021/06/08/tech-bytes.html>

## Tech Bytes: Blacks In Technology Foundation enters Nashville; two college systems adding IT certificates

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*Nashville's tech scene is about to radically change with the arrival of Oracle and as Amazon and other firms fill their downtown hubs. But there's plenty of action right now. Tech Bytes is a weekly roundup highlighting news on startups, capital raises and other activity in the region's tech sector.*

There's now a Nashville chapter of the Blacks In Technology Foundation. [Holly Rachel](#) and [Lena Winfree](#), cofounders of Nashville data analytics company Rachel + Winfree

Consulting, organized the local chapter of a global nonprofit that has 13,000 members in seven countries. The pair worked with the [Greater Nashville Technology Council](#) to create the chapter — which is free to join and has many training programs that often are free or discounted. "It's important to continue to build the Nashville tech pipeline as more technology-driven companies start in and relocate to Nashville," Rachel said. "Building the diversity of that



MARTIN B. CHERRY | NASHVILLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Nashville skyline on Friday evening  
May 6, 2021.

pipeline is equally as important to make sure that all communities can be lifted and enriched by the city's growth."

Artificial intelligence firm Lucid has followed a \$9 million raise in late 2020 by adding another \$2 million from a pair of investors, according to a new SEC disclosure.

Franklin-based startup HavenLock Inc., which makes a smart-lock alternative to a deadbolt for doors, raised \$1.8 million from 28 investors, according to a new SEC disclosure. The company pitched its product on ABC's "Shark Tank" in 2019.

The Most Hilarious Shark Tank Pitch Ever, Reviewed | Inc.



Nashville State Community College has teamed with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce to market the college's new information technology programming certificate program. The marketing campaign, which will last two months, is named "You Deserve More." The Nashville State certificate program is backed by part of a \$250,000 grant from JPMorgan Chase & Co. A similar program will be available through Columbia State Community College in early 2022.

## **Tech talk**

"They looked at me like had horns on my head."

Silas Deane, founding CEO, VendEngine Inc.

- Deane was contrasting how potential clients viewed him five or six years ago, compared with today. VendEngine, whose software is

used in jails and other correctional facilities, is selling to Texas-based Tyler Technologies Inc. (NYSE: TYL) for \$84 million.

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