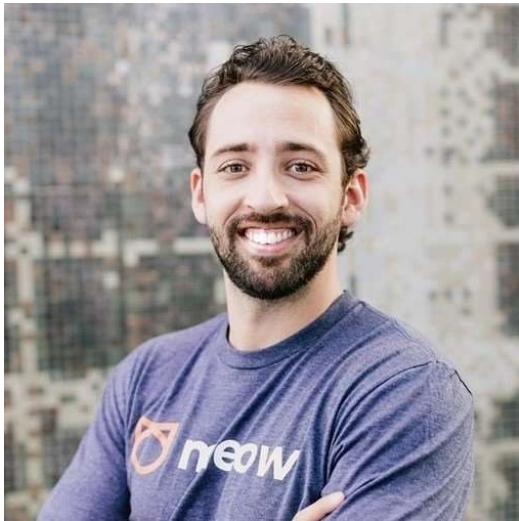




Brandon Arvanaghi
Vanderbilt, BA'16 | Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Meow

Brandon Arvanaghi is CEO of Meow, a business banking fintech with over \$1 billion in assets on the platform. Meow has raised ~\$30 million in venture funding from Tiger Global, QED Investors, Lux Capital, and several others. He was the featured finance CEO for Forbes 30 under 30 2024. Before Meow, Brandon was a security engineer at Gemini. He has been interviewed by Forbes, Bloomberg TV, the Wall St. Journal, and several other publications. He

graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2016.



Bryce Crawford
Vanderbilt, BS'16 | Founder & Chief Technology Officer, Meow

Bryce Crawford is the CTO of Meow, a business banking fintech with over \$1 billion in assets on the platform. Meow has raised ~\$30 million in venture funding from Tiger Global, QED Investors, Lux Capital, and several others. He was featured on Forbes 30 under 30 2024 in finance. Before Meow, Bryce was an engineer at Meta where he worked on Instagram Shops. He graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2016.

About Meow

Meow was born in early 2021 in a Miami apartment where Arvanaghi and Crawford were holed up writing code and cold-calling investors. The duo had become friends at Vanderbilt University while both were studying computer science. They overlapped briefly at cryptocurrency exchange Gemini where they were both engineers before Arvanaghi left for a stint at a bitcoin mining company. When he decided to start his own company, he called up his buddy Crawford, who by then held a well-paid gig as a senior software engineer at Facebook (now Meta) in New York. Crawford gamely quit his job and moved to Miami.



Deanna Meador (Moderator)
Lead Instructor for Entrepreneurship,
The Wond'ry; Chief Executive Officer,
Couture Technologies

Deanna Meador is CEO of tech company Couture Technologies and apparel brand Freedom Company, as well as the co-founder and CEO of CHALK Coaching.

She began Couture Technologies to empower apparel companies with virtual fitting technology, 3D garment creation services, and enhanced data analytics designed to reduce returns. Couture Technologies is a NSF-funded company that was recognized as one of the Top 9 tech startups in the world during the Olympics of Tech, the 2023 Most Innovative Apparel E-Commerce Tech Solution, 2022 Most Innovative Apparel Sales Software Company in the World, and one of the Top 3D Companies in Tennessee.

Deanna is a successful serial tech entrepreneur that describes herself as never meeting a challenge she didn't like. She started her first company during graduate school and grew it to multiple locations until it was acquired by a larger company. After selling this company, she developed a paperless data collection system for collecting assessment and observational data. This system was adopted by universities across the U.S., South Africa, Portugal, Australia and Sweden. In 2017, she joined 3 other inventors to develop Chalk Coaching, a tool for improving classroom experiences for preschool and kindergarten children through collaborative, data-driven coaching.

On March 8th, 2023, International Women's Day, Deanna made history when she became the first woman to raise \$1.5M in 8 hours. She intentionally structured her raise in this way to start to change the narrative around the lack of funding for women-owned companies.

Deanna was the recipient of the Unsung Hero award for her work with underserved youth, as well as the Young Alumni Achievement Award from her undergraduate university for her innovations (the highest honor the university bestows on alumni under the age of 40, out of over 400 nominees).

Deanna was part of the founding team that started the Wond'ry, Vanderbilt University's Innovation Center. Through her role as the former Deputy Director, she taught over 17 cohorts of aspiring entrepreneurs and mentored over 600 teams as they evaluated new technologies and launched new ventures. She is a certified national instructor for the National Science Foundation's I-Corps program and in this role, she leads entrepreneurial training cohorts for teams from across the country. Deanna really enjoys working with creators, inventors, and entrepreneurs that dedicate their lives and talents to making a positive impact in the world.



Wade Peery

Chief Innovations Officer, FirstBank

Wade Peery joined FirstBank in 2012 and currently serves as the company's Chief Innovations Officer.

A career banker turned innovator, Peery leverages his 30+ years of banking experience providing thought leadership and shaping new ideas for the future of the company and the industry. A firm believer in imagining what is possible, he has become recognized as one of Tennessee's leading financial services and digital asset innovators. In his previous

role at FirstBank he served as the bank's Chief Administrative Officer.

In 2022, Peery has shared his deep knowledge of digital assets through interviews with CoinDesk Live TV, The Tennessee Banker Magazine, and The Financial Brand. He has also presented at industry leading conferences, including Fintech Nexus Conference, Tennessee Bankers Annual Conference, Stephens Digital Asset Conference, Jack Henry Strategic Initiatives Conference, Mid-sized Community Bank Coalition Webinar, and Ole Miss Banking and Finance Symposium.

Peery brings meaningful insights and mentorship to other financial organizations. Currently he serves on the Board of Directors for the USDF Consortium and Zippy Loans, as well as multiple Jack Henry and Associates advisory boards including the Mid-Tier Advisory Board and the Digital Banking Advisory Board.

A Middle Tennessee State University graduate and former member of the football team, Peery serves as the board chair of Backfield in Motion, an organization that combines athletics and academics to inspire inner-city youth to reach their full potential. A lifetime Tennessean, originally from Hohenwald, Peery now resides in Williamson County with his wife Lisa and enjoys spending his free time fishing, hunting, and golfing.