

Raleigh startup, Lavni, awarded first-place prize of \$20,000 at Summerfest Tech Pitch Competition

Innovation and entrepreneurship took center stage at Molson Coors sponsored event

MILWAUKEE – June 28, 2023 – North Carolina-based startup, [Lavni Inc.](#), is the winner of this year's Summerfest Tech Pitch Competition, receiving the first-place cash prize of \$20,000. Molson Coors, in collaboration with Milwaukee World Festival, Inc. (MWF) and Young Enterprising Society, sponsored the event as part of its commitment to supporting emerging tech and entrepreneurship.

[RedFox AI](#), headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin, claimed the second-place prize of \$10,000, while Milwaukee-based [AfroCharts](#) secured third place, earning \$5,000. In addition to the third-place prize, AfroCharts was presented with an additional \$5,000 for being recognized as the "Hometown Winner," an award introduced this year to highlight Milwaukee's prominence as a global and national tech hub. The remaining four startups were each honored with \$2,500 awards for their contributions.

"At Molson Coors, we are deeply committed to fostering the growth of aspiring leaders in emerging tech and entrepreneurship. By providing a platform for local and national entrepreneurs to showcase their ideas, this competition rewards their hard work, creativity and dedication to solving critical challenges," said Jonah Turner, head of emerging tech, Molson Coors. "Each year, the caliber of innovative ideas and talent the startups bring to the pitch competition never fails to impress us. We are excited to witness Lavni's journey and how this funding will pave the way for new opportunities and successes."

Lavni aims to combat the stigma surrounding mental health care by connecting individuals in underserved communities with mental health professionals. Offering a unique avatar feature, clients can access an extra level of comfort and anonymity in their therapy sessions. Lavni also provides an AI-enabled notes feature that allows clinicians to generate session notes in just 10 minutes, significantly reducing time spent on administrative tasks.

2023 Summerfest Tech Pitch Competition finalists who shared their ideas for a chance to win a portion of the \$50,000 cash prize pool included AfroCharts, AppEase LLC, Cookie Langs Inc., CrossKudi, Lavni Inc., RedFox AI and Wellacy Health. The Summerfest Tech Pitch Competition was hosted by Jonah Turner and included these local business and community leaders on the judging panel:

- Andre Hall – IT business partner, Molson Coors
- Dan Gawronski - partner, Venture Best
- Jasmin Treske - director of early Talent, MKE Tech Hub Coalition
- Nikki Purvis - president/CEO, African American Chambers of Commerce
- Richelle Martin - managing director, Winnow Fund
- Israel Squires - managing partner, Midpoint Ventures

In addition to sponsoring the Summerfest Tech Pitch Competition, Molson Coors invests in cutting-edge technologies and supports entrepreneurship to make a positive difference in the communities it serves. To learn more about Molson Coors and some of its emerging tech initiatives, please visit www.molsoncoors.com.



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About Molson Coors

For more than two centuries, Molson Coors has been brewing beverages that unite people to celebrate all life's moments. From Coors Light, Miller Lite, Molson Canadian, Carling and Staropramen to Coors Banquet, Blue Moon Belgian White, Blue Moon LightSky, Vizzy, Leinenkugel's Summer Shandy, Creemore Springs, Hop Valley and more, Molson Coors produces many beloved and iconic beer brands. While the company's history is rooted in beer, Molson Coors offers a modern portfolio that expands beyond the beer aisle as well. Our ESG strategy is focused on People and Planet with a strong commitment to raising industry standards and leaving a positive imprint on our employees, consumers, communities and the environment. To learn more about Molson Coors Beverage Company, visit molsoncoors.com, MolsonCoorsOurImprint.com or on Twitter through @MolsonCoors.

About Summerfest Tech

Summerfest Tech began in 2018 with the goal of leveraging the Summerfest brand to showcase technology and provide a forum for attendees from the tech and business community to network, educate, and celebrate the evolution of technology. Summerfest Tech continues to champion the regional business community, while shining the spotlight on Wisconsin's growing reputation as a tech hub, highlighting the growth and opportunity in the region. Programming from local, regional, and national speakers, as well as a cash-prize pitch competition, connects the tech community around relevant topics. Summerfest Tech will be held June 27-29, 2023, free of charge, in-person and available virtually. For more details, visit Summerfest-Tech.com.

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