



base camp
</CODING ACADEMY>

Issue #20
April 16th, 2019

Base Camp Coding Academy Newsletter

Graduation 2019:

Please join us for our graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 12th, in Water Valley, MS. This graduation marks the successful completion of the Base Camp Coding Academy 3-Year Pilot. Base Camp's future will be built on the foundation of hard work and success these first three classes have laid down.

The ceremony will begin at 3 pm at the Old School Theater, 817 S. Main Street, Water Valley.

2019 Spring Fundraiser:

We will not be holding our annual fundraiser this year! The group that has organized this lovely event over the past 2 years is currently focused on our new facility, **Everest: Mississippi's First Rural Education and Innovation Hub**. While we will miss seeing you this year, we can't wait to see you at the fundraiser in 2020, located in our new facility!

If you are moved to make your annual contribution, that can still be done here: <https://www.crowdrise.com/bcca>

Incoming Class of 2020:

As the class of 2019 prepares to graduate, our Executive Director Sean Anthony has been leading the admissions process for the class of 2020. We have capacity to accept 38 students this year, and will accept nominations through the end of this week, April 19th. If you know a high school senior that is driven and bright, and short on opportunities post-high school, please help get them nominated!

www.BaseCampCodingAcademy.org/Nominate

The class of 2020 will start their journey on June 3rd at 8:30 am.

Classroom Progress:

At this time of the year, with just a few weeks left before graduation, our students have completed the core components of the Base Camp curriculum. At the end of March the full class was promoted through the third evaluation gate, and moved on to their thesis projects. This year each student completed two Java-based group projects using Agile methodology for managing their team work. With the classroom instructors and our Software Engineer in Residence acting as customers, the students went through the process of gathering requirements, regular progress updates and change requests, and final product delivery and feedback.

Spring is also the time for our students to prepare for, and engage in, finding and securing their first employment opportunity. The entire class spent a 40 hour week in March job shadowing in business offices across the state and in Birmingham. (A huge thank you to MorganWhite, CSpire, Corelogic, Renasant Bank, MTrade, and Elliott Logic.) Back in the classroom each student completed three practice technical interviews, with feedback and improvement notes to help them prepare for the real thing.

They are now working through their final projects, taking on the challenge of learning additional languages and frameworks based on the companies they are hoping to work with, and applying for positions and completing interviews as frequently as possible. If your company, or one you know, is looking to expand your development workforce, please let us know!

Classroom Visitors:

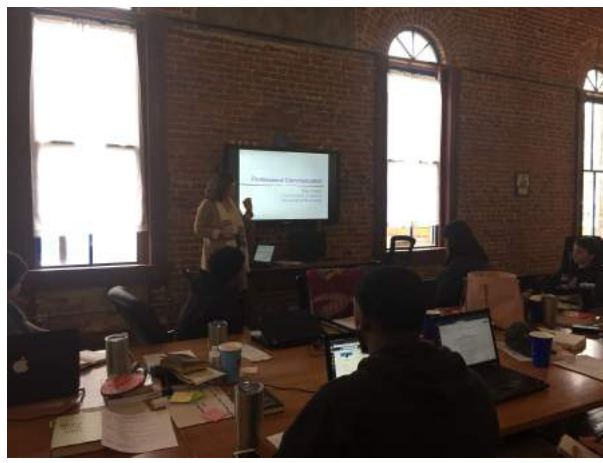
In January Mr. Steven Goodgame brought his 6th grade Coding class from Lafayette County to allow them to sit with Base Camp students and do some hands on coding.

The Oxford Lafayette School of Applied Technology took a field trip to Base Camp in February. Our students were able to share their experience and teach a little coding to this group of 9-12th graders who have expressed interest in coding as a future career.



Dr. Claire Mischker and Mr. Brad Campbell donated a writing and grammar workshop, spending time on e-mail etiquette, review, and practical systems to avoid sending communications before they are thoroughly reviewed.

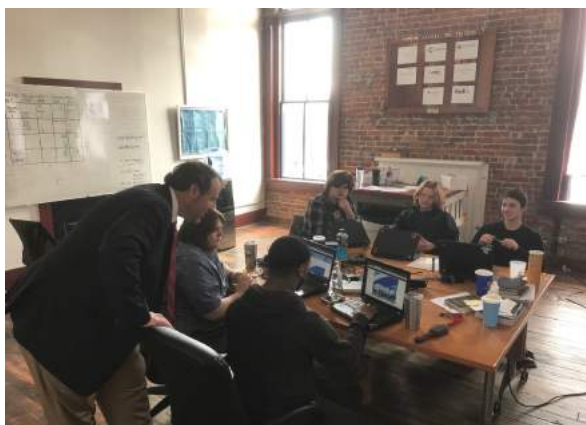
Ms. Kate Hooper donated a Professional Writing Workshop, with specific focus on writing structures and strategies to clearly and professionally communicate in a business environment.



Randy Irving and Stacy Alexander from the FedEx Diversity and Inclusion Team, and Davis Dodson, from the Human Resources Pathfinders program visited the classroom for a resume-polishing workshop.



Chris Caldwell, Executive Director of the Delta Regional Authority, popped into Water Valley to see what Base Camp has been up to over the past three years, and where we are headed. He spent some time with the class, met with our local elected officials, and took a walk to the empty sewing factory that will be our new home.

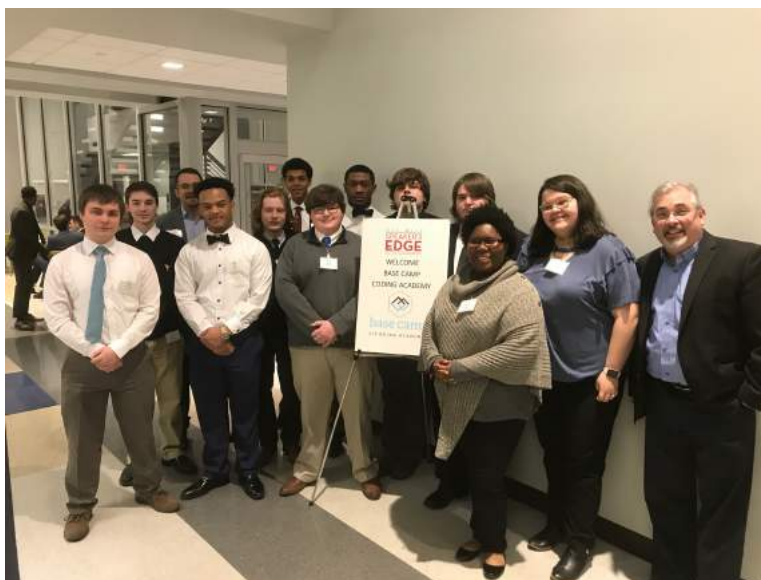


Ed Gardner, President of the Mississippi Main Street Association and Director of Business and Economic Development for Entergy, stopped in to see what sort of creative things are happening on a Main Street in Mississippi. Ed and Mickey Howley, Water Valley's Main Street Director, took a walk up the street to see where we are headed.



Off-campus trips:

For the third year the Base Camp students were invited to attend the Speakers Edge event at the University of Mississippi. They spent two days as volunteers supporting the judges and sitting in on the public speaking training and practice seminars. Thank you Randy Harrington for including Base Camp in this wonderful event each year.

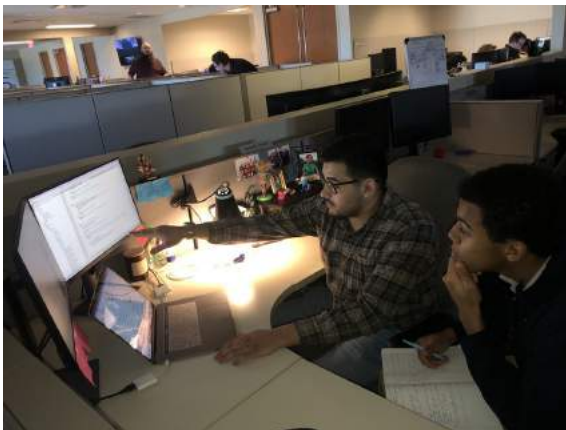


The Base Camp class this year has started a coding club for 6th graders at the local elementary school! They first designed a curriculum to teach the fundamentals of web programming over the Spring semester, and take turns each Monday leading the coding club at Davidson Elementary. The club has covered HTML, CSS, and Javascript, and the students are looking forward to finishing the school year with a web game they can access from home to share with their families.



Ron and Misty Feder hosted their second annual Etiquette Lunch for the Base Camp class. Hosted at Grit in Taylor, MS, Misty oversees an etiquette workshop during a multi-course meal to help the class prepare for future interviews, business meetings, or simple team functions that may occur over and around meals.

Job Shadowing week: Again, thank you to MorganWhite, CSpire, Corelogic, Renasant Bank, MTrade, and Elliott Logic for hosting our students for a 40 hour work week!



Early April saw the class back on the CSpire campus for a day of interviewing:



Personnel Changes:

We are very excited to welcome Fernae Ellard as our newest Base Camp Instructor! Ms. Ellard is coming to us from the Cleveland, Mississippi school district, and we can't wait for her to expand the skill sets our teaching team has to share with the Base Camp students.

Financials:

One of the many lessons Base Camp has taught us: Mississippi is ready to invest in our youth and our economic future. Three years ago our business and philanthropic leaders didn't bat an eye when we asked them to support this experiment. And three years later, when we have gone back to share the outcome of that experiment, and share what we would like to try next, they have again offered their support. Below you will find a list of the current partners in **Everest: Mississippi's First Rural Education and Innovation Hub**.

Everest has embarked on a \$ 2 million capital campaign to support the purchase and renovation of the Big Yank garment factory in Water Valley, MS. The converted facility will house a larger and more accessible space for Base Camp as well as room for our Founding Partner Northwest Mississippi Community College to co-locate complimentary adult education and workforce training programs. It will also include office space for our corporate partners and space for a tech and tech adjacent start-up incubator. We are excited about the opportunity to expand on the original mission and scope of Base Camp to serve more of the workforce needs of our region and are grateful to the partners below who are helping to make **Everest** a reality.

Base Camp Coding Academy Phase 2.0

Everest: Mississippi's First Rural Education and Innovation Hub

Peak Partners:

Northwest Mississippi Community College

The City of Water Valley

Summit Sponsors:

The MorganWhite Group

CoreLogic

Renasant bank

Sustaining Sponsors:

The MorganWhite Group

The C Spire Foundation

CoreLogic

Renasant Bank

FedEx

If you are interested in becoming an Everest Summit or Sustaining partner, please reach out to Glen or Kagan.

Stay up to date with Base Camp activities here:

<https://www.facebook.com/basecampcodingacademy/>

<https://www.instagram.com/basecampcoding/>

Base Camp Pilot:

Founding Partner:

Northwest Mississippi Community College

Founding Sponsors:

Diane and Dickey Scruggs

The C Spire Foundation

Paige and Glen Evans

Ambassador John Palmer

FNC | Corelogic

generous/modest philanthropist #1

Renasant Bank

Jan and Lawrence Farrington

FedEx

Community Sponsors:

Trustmark National Bank

Generous/modest philanthropist #2

BrainShark

AOL

Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy with Making it Happen Foundation

LuLu's Shoes & Accessories

And one of our favorite pictures this year:

**11 Base Camp Students from the classes of 2017, 2018, and 2019,
with Carla Lewis, CSpire's CTO, and Base Camp Coding Academy Board Member**

