



base camp
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Issue #21
June 25, 2019

Base Camp Coding Academy Newsletter

We are excited to have officially launched into our fourth year of Base Camp with the new class starting 26 students strong on June 3rd.



We are fortunate to have students joining our program from the following high schools: Bruce, Coffeerville, Coldwater, Hernando, Horn Lake, Ingomar, Lafayette, Mooreville, Oxford, Pontotoc City, Stone Memorial, South Pontotoc, Tupelo, and Water Valley.

The new school year also welcomed **Fernae Ellard** to the teaching team. Fernae is joining us most recently from her position teaching in Cleveland, MS. She will be adding an additional layer of support for the students with a focus on the students' professional writing skills and professionalism. We are excited to see what extra growth the students will make under her guidance!



Class of 2019 Updates

Congratulations to the Base Camp Coding Academy class of 2019! We had an amazing time at the graduation on Saturday, May 12th, in Water Valley. Base Camp champion **Chris Winton**, Vice President of Human Resources at FedEx, gave a riveting keynote address about his story with many helpful lessons and advice for the new graduates. If you have not seen it, you can see Chris sharing his personal story and mention of Base Camp on C-Span in this video speaking to the American Enterprise Institute last July: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?448383-1/worker-wages-benefits&start=1191>

Pictured below are the graduates after presenting their thesis projects to a mixed audience of their peers, mentors, supporters and board members on Wednesday, May 8th. The students created full-stack web applications in the language and framework of their choice and shared their lessons during an eight-minute presentation. Seven of the graduates were stepping into jobs after graduation, and the remaining four are actively interviewing.

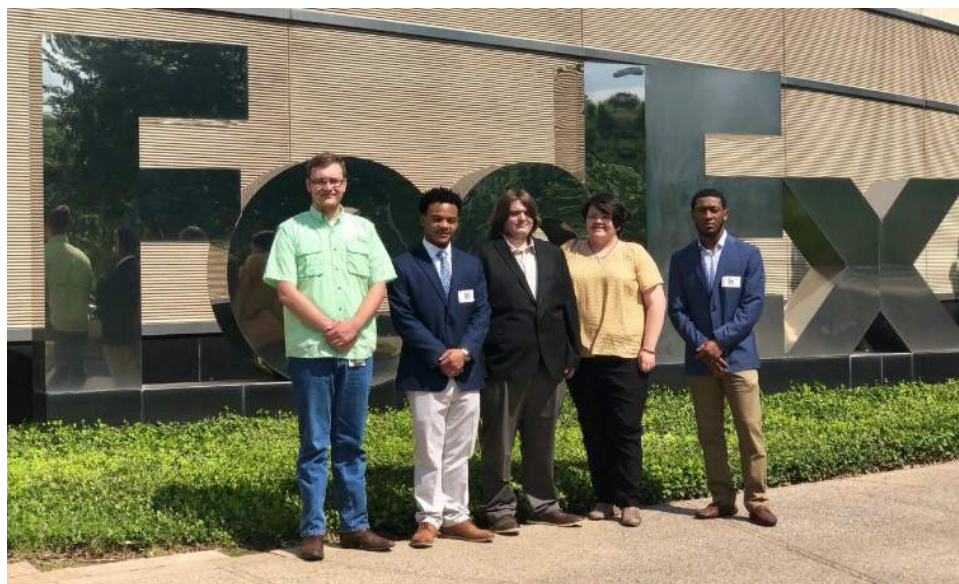


Front row (left to right): John Morgan (CSpire), Logan Harrell (CSpire), Myeisha Madkins (Matilda, LLC), Ginger Keys (interviewing), Danny Peterson (MTrade), Cole Anderson (CoreLogic).
Back row (left to right): Ray Turner (interviewing), Henry Moore (interviewing), Cody van der Poel (CSpire), and Timothy Bowling (interviewing).

Henry, Ray, Ginger, and Tim all visited the FedEx World Technology campus in Collierville, TN, for a campus tour and an interview workshop in mid-May. While there, they were able to connect with Base Camp 2017 alum **Jacob Spence**.



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If you would like to contact these four students about career opportunities, please reach out to Sean Anthony (sean@basecampcodingacademy.org).

Leigh Anne Tuohy and the Making it Happen Foundation generously gifted the 2019 class with a week's worth of work and interview clothes to support the students on their new jobs and job hunt. This kind act is the third year in a row the students have been supported by the Tuohys and the Making it Happen Foundation. Leigh Anne personally joined the Base Camp students in Memphis, and it looks like everyone had fun while selecting their new wardrobe:

https://www.instagram.com/p/Bxd_VUjH1pg/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet



Classroom Visitors

Three generations of Base Camp graduates visited the students on Thursday, June 20th, to share advice to the new class. Pictured in the blue shirts below are **Martin Guzman** (2017), **Cody van der Poel** (2019), **Jo'Tavious Smith** (2018), and **Keegan Faustin** (2017). **John Hildebrand**

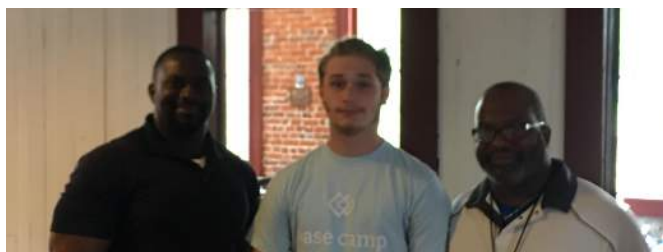


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accompanied the graduates to share advice as someone who has hired and manages Base Camp alum. The graduates shared a wealth of experience through a question and answer session, and they stuck around for informal conversations over pizza. We appreciate their time and willingness to support the new class of students.



Current Base Camp student, **Hunter Harmon**, was surprised by two of his former instructors from Coldwater High School. Hunter's former teacher, and nominator to get into Base Camp, **Mr. Garrick Smith** stopped by with Tate County High School Principal **Dr. Joseph Lamberth**. Also visiting Base Camp, **Sarah Hooper** from McCarty Architects in Tupelo, MS came to see what is happening at Base Camp, and if there are any ways McCarty might be able to assist with the Everest project.



Micah Brailsfeld and **Lia Fannin** from **Robert Half Technologies** to meet with students and help them pursue future career opportunities. All the students have since participated in phone interviews and resume reviews with Micah and Lia about career opportunities. Micah continues to work with our graduates, and we look forward to partnering Micah and Lia for additional career networking opportunities in the future.



Earlier this month **Ben Hubbard** from Mississippi Coding Academies visited Base Camp to learn more about our program.

Team building in (near) the Classroom

As the new class dives into the Base Camp curriculum and 8-hour work/learn schedule, they have plenty of challenges to bond over. It is important to strengthen the relationships and culture of mutual support within the class, as these students will be vital to each other's success throughout the year. With this in mind we shift gears every now and again to invest in bonding exercises that are a little more fun. One sunny afternoon the class competed in teams in an egg drop competition to see who could build the best apparatus to protect an egg dropped from the second floor of our building. Pictured here, the viewing/cheering section from the neighboring Pocket Park.



Base Camp Coding Academy Phase 2.0

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
Delta Regional Authority
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 (2016-2019)

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