

Base Camp Coding Academy Newsletter

Exciting things are happening at Base Camp Coding Academy!

Inside the Classroom:

Students have completed the first large section of the Base Camp curriculum that focuses on the fundamentals of programming in Python. On August 23rd every student successfully passed through the first (of four) quarterly evaluations. The class recently wrapped up the first section of web development content, and completed their first fully interactive projects with online stores. Each student's project portfolio will be live on the Base Camp website in the coming weeks.

<https://basecampcodingacademy.org/student-portfolios>



This summer saw the implementation of Leadership Projects for the class. These projects are an opportunity for students to practice skills like teamwork, management, delegation, and scheduling by working in groups to solve real-world problems. Below is a summary of each team's mission this year.



The **Documentation Team** will be maintaining a publicly viewable document that further explains the Base Camp curriculum.



The **Community Team** is responsible for leading an after-school coding club for 6th graders at Davidson Elementary School (DES) in Water Valley.



The **Management Team** is responsible for taking care of Base Camp's facilities and delegating responsibilities across the class.



The **Procurement Team** oversees the needs of the students and classroom by managing the supplies and resources needed at Base Camp.

Classroom Visitors

On July 19th, we were excited to have a site visit from our team of crack New Market Tax Credit experts. Raza Development Fund out of Phoenix has selected *Everest* as one of their New Market Tax Credit projects this year. **Catherine Kes** and **Ashley Dills** from Raza flew in from Phoenix and New York, and **Katie Frattaroli**, our tax credit expert from AMCREF who is helping us with both the New Market and the Historic tax credits, joined us from Charleston.



On August 22nd, **Lindsey Linhares** from Senator Hyde-Smith's office in Washington DC was in Mississippi and stopped by the classroom to share her experience and career advice with the current class.

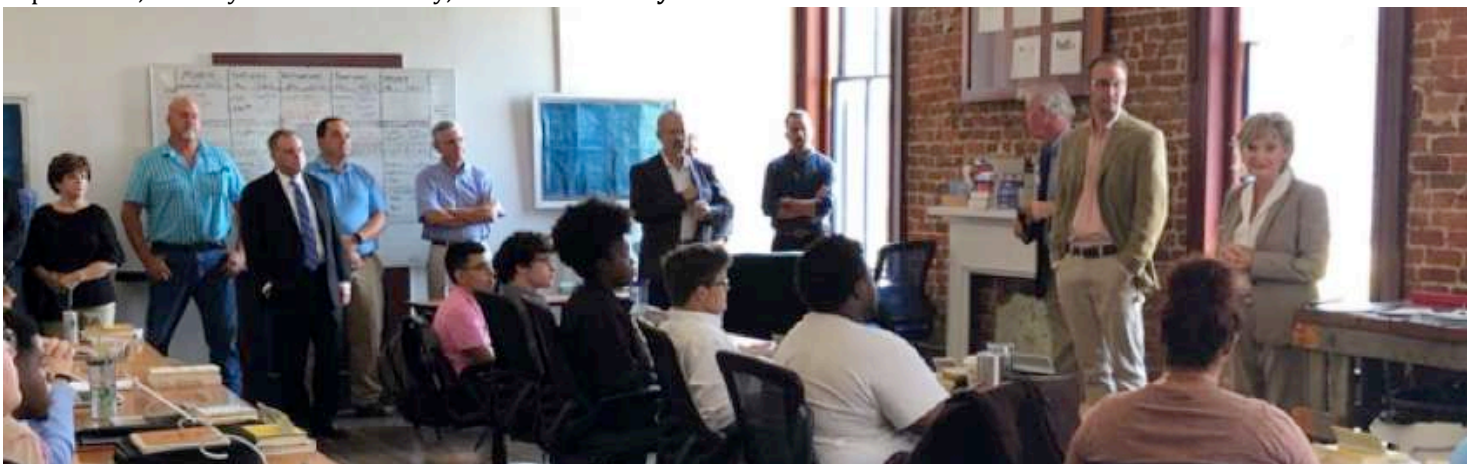


On August 27th, several members of the Teach For America Greater Delta team came for a site visit to learn more about Base Camp and meet with the students.



Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith visited Water Valley on September 5th to tour our current and future locations, and share words of encouragement with the Base Camp class. During her visit Senator Hyde-Smith announced that a Rural Development Community Facilities Grant has been approved for the new *Everest* building.

Joining us on the 5th were members of the Senator's executive staff, as well as **John Rounsaville**, USDA Executive Director for the State of Mississippi, **David Campbell**, Vice President for Workforce Solutions and Career-Technical Education at Northwest Mississippi Community College, Base Camp Coding Academy board members, representatives from the County Board of Supervisors, the Mayor of Water Valley, and **Coach Bob Tyler**.



Field Trips:

The class took a trip to the Bowling Alley in early August to celebrate progress they had made in their Python Content.



The wonderful team at CoreLogic in Oxford hosted our students for a full day of networking, team-building activities, and shadowing opportunities on August 16th. The current class was led on the tour by Base Camp alumni and CoreLogic employees **Trey Shelton** (2018), **Shedlia Freedman** (2018), and **Cole Anderson** (2019). Special thanks to our board members **Bethany Cooper**, **Glen Evans**, **Sage Nichols**, and **John Marsalis** who helped make the experience possible.



The students took a field trip to Renasant Bank's data center in Tupelo to learn more about the company on September 4th. The visit included a tour of the data center, and the students had several opportunities to learn valuable career advice from senior developers. Special appreciation to **Jay Prewett** and **Henry Jones** for making a great student experience possible.



Everest: Mississippi's First Rural Education and Innovation Hub

Everest is one Summit Sponsor away from being fully funded!

When we first started thinking about the best strategy for growing on the successes of the Base Camp Coding Academy model, we didn't realize that the effort alone would become a valuable example of what is possible when everyone shares their resources and expertise.

Practically we set out to purchase and renovate 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 knew it was going to be a big team effort, but had no idea how many companies, individuals, agencies, education and public groups would help bring this vision together. These are the folks making it possible:

Peak Partners:

- Northwest Mississippi Community College
- Delta Regional Authority
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- The City of Water Valley
- Yalobusha County Board of Supervisors

Summit Sponsors:

- The MorganWhite Group
- CoreLogic
- Renasant bank

Sustaining Sponsors:

- The MorganWhite Group
- The CSpire Foundation
- CoreLogic
- Renasant Bank
- FedEx

If you are considering becoming our final Summit Sponsor, 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 CSpire Foundation

Paige and Glen Evans

Ambassador John Palmer

FNC | Corelogic

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AOL

Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy with Making it Happen Foundation

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