

Issue #15  
August 24, 2017

## Base Camp Coding Academy

### Newsletter

As the summer winds down, the 2018 class of Base Camp students are ramping up. We are almost three months into the program with our new class and it is wonderful to see the students' amazing progress in such a short period of time. They are deeply immersed in the curriculum, writing code, and learning what a professional career will look like for them in less than a year.

At the end of July, the students' skills were tested with an intensive Python coding project. Python is a programming language, and the coding project is one of the first major steps in the Base Camp curriculum due to its foundational nature. Python has a design philosophy that emphasizes code readability and provides constructs intended to enable writing clear programs on both a small and large scale. The students spent several days working on their projects, which go through a series of submissions and reviews with the instructors.

After all of the hard work, the students went bowling to celebrate their completion of the Python project.



Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, was an exciting day at Base Camp.

First, the class was treated to a visit from our four 2017 graduates who are now employed with C Spire, along with Carla Lewis, Base Camp board member and CIO of CSpire. You may remember that those graduates held internships with C Spire during the summer and are now transitioning to full positions. This was a great opportunity for former and current students to visit and share experiences. The class of 2017 is definitely an inspiration for our current students. Visiting with the graduates really helps the students to visualize where they can be in a year.

Senator Roger Wicker, the United States Senator from Mississippi, also visited the Base Camp classroom on August 21st. Senator Wicker spent time with a group that included the current class, instructors, graduates from the 2017 class, and board members. It was a great opportunity to tell the senator about the accomplishments of our amazing students. Public awareness and support from all levels – local, state, and federal – is certainly important to our mission, and Senator Wicker’s visit was a great way to increase support and awareness on a federal level. In addition to the Senator, we were joined by Ben Moncrief, Vice President of Government Relations for C Spire, and Larry Hart, Mayor of Water Valley. The Senator viewed our [video from the 2017 class](#) and heard from the four students from the 2017 class that now work at C Spire. He was quite impressed with their success and career trajectory.

Here are some pictures from the Senators visit:



Senator Wicker with members of the current and former Base Camp classes.





Senator Wicker watches the Base Camp video



2017 Graduates Martin Guzman (top left), Adam Tutor (top right), Keegan Faustin (bottom left), Nicole Shelton (bottom right) share their stories with Senator Wicker.

Thank you for your continued support of these students. Stay tuned to follow the evolving progress of our current class and graduates.

**Access:**

If you would like to keep up with the goings-on in the Base Camp classroom in between these newsletters, watch for updates to our social media sites. This fall we are looking forward to a new volunteer, Wade Meena, who will be assisting us with several projects around the office and classroom, one of which will be keeping these sites full of current images of the students in and out of the classroom.

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

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

**Founding Partners:**

Northwest Mississippi Community College

**Founding Sponsors:**

Diane and Dickey Scruggs

The C Spire Foundation

Paige and Glen Evans

Ambassador John Palmer

Corelogic

generous/modest philanthropist #1

Renasant Bank

Jan and Lawrence Farrington

FedEx

**Community Sponsors:**

Trustmark National Bank

Generous/modest philanthropist #2

BrainShark

AOL

Make it Happen Foundation