



base camp
</CODING ACADEMY>

NEWSLETTER
Issue #27
Sept. 15th, 2020



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WELCOME
BACK!

STUDENTS RETURN

That highly anticipated day, September 8th, 2020, finally arrived, and with one full week of Base Camp in the books, we are very excited about the student's progress thus far...

FINISH READING ON PG. 2



"Some things in life are worth waiting for." That classic saying rang true on our first day of class. Although we were disappointed about delaying the start of our 2021 school year, it was worth the wait. Seeing our students walk through the doors of Everest as they started this journey was priceless. We were able to introduce this new class to the best that BCCA has to offer with an advanced facility, brand new equipment, and a revitalized curriculum.



NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

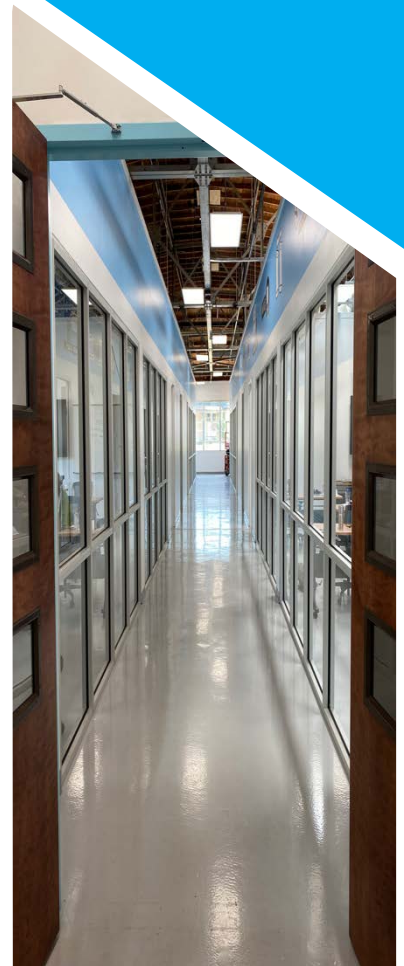
"...I have been aware of Base Camp Coding Academy since its inception, and I have always wanted to be more involved in improving, promoting, and expanding access to computer science in Mississippi..."

FINISH READING ON PG. 3

SAFETY FIRST

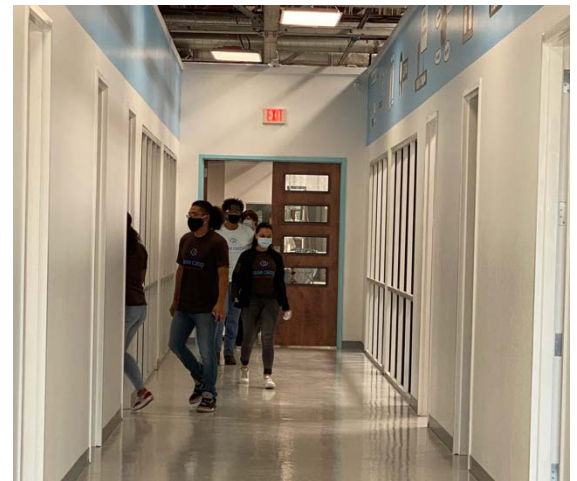
To ensure the health and safety of our staff and students, we have implemented several new policies...

FINISH READING ON PG. 4

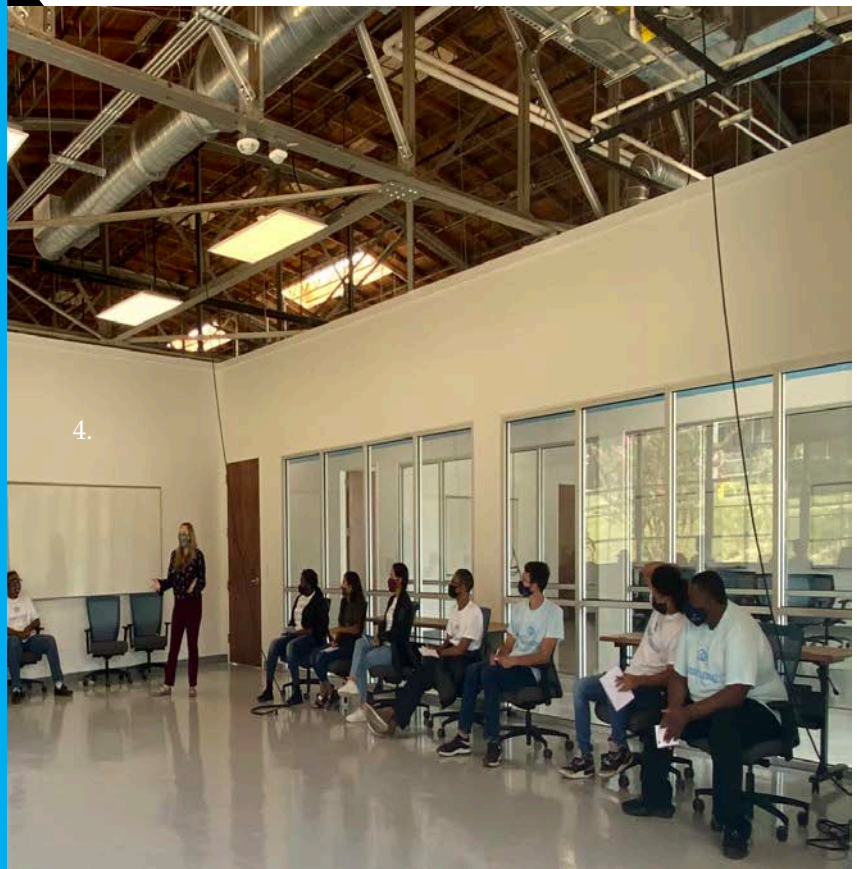




That highly anticipated day, September 8th, 2020, finally arrived, and with one full week of Base Camp in the books, we are very excited about the student's progress thus far. Despite a 3 month pandem-cation, our students have arrived at 8:15 AM each day, and they have already started to fall into the new routines of the year. Each morning is spent learning the day's new technical material. This includes several interactive discovery sessions and individual learning periods led by our Senior Technical Director, Nate Clark. After lunch, students work with our Director, Fernae Ellard, on professional, teamwork, and communication skills that will be vital to their success in the workplace. This is all being accomplished while adhering to the new protocols we have put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic. Base Camp students are facing a more complex world and learning environment, but, thanks to our outstanding new facility, technology resources, and our dedicated staff, the students are excelling in this new ecosystem!



“As a student in Mississippi, I did not have access to the same computer science and programming opportunities as my counterparts in other states.”



NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Corey Mize joins Base Camp

We are thrilled to announce Corey Mize as the new Executive Director of Base Camp Coding Academy! Corey is coming to us after four years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) in Vicksburg, MS, where she worked as a computer scientist and program manager. Corey received her M.S. in computer science from Mississippi State, and has spent the past several years promoting computer science access across the state in volunteer capacities with CS4MS and the Vicksburg Coding and Robotics Camp, as well as teaching freshman and senior level courses at Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi. This combined industry and educational experience is exactly what Base Camp needs to lead us into the future.

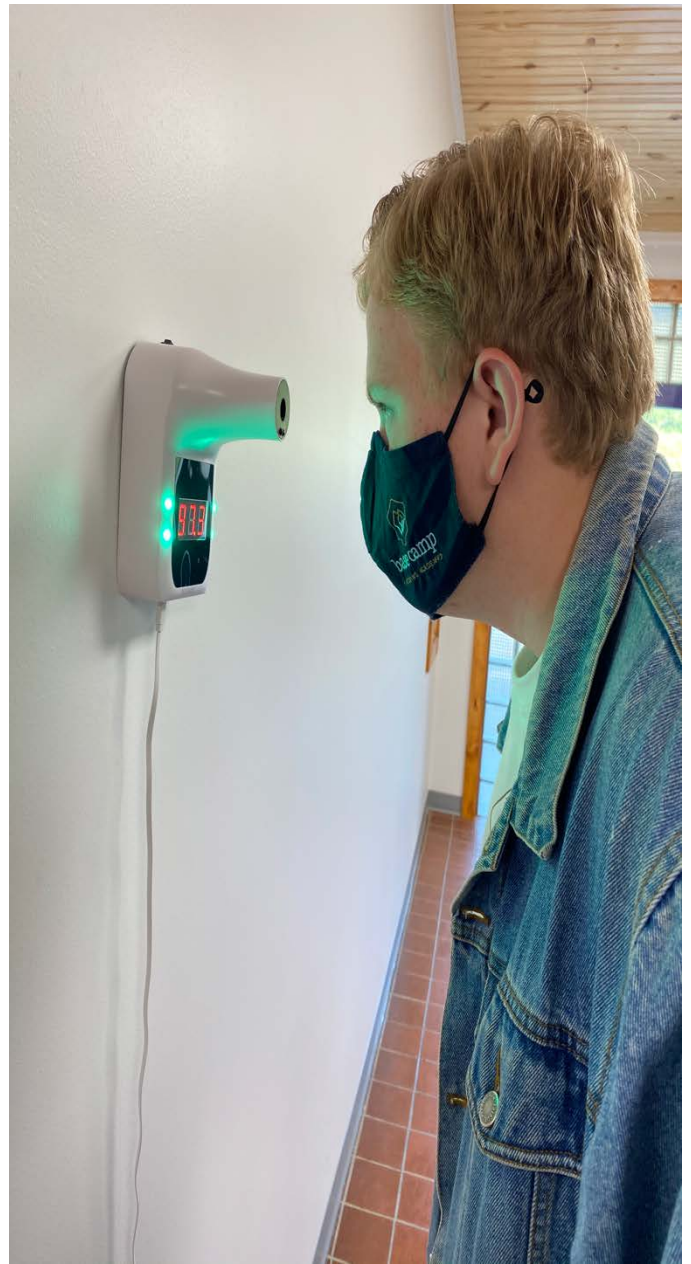
When we asked Corey why she was interested in joining Base Camp, Corey said: “As a student in Mississippi, I did not have access to the same computer science and programming opportunities as my counterparts in other states. When I chose to pursue a computer science degree at Mississippi State University it was the result of a desire to bring those opportunities to this state. ...I have been aware of Base Camp Coding Academy since its inception, and I have always wanted to be more involved in improving, promoting, and expanding access to computer science in Mississippi.”

Please join us in welcoming Corey, whose unique technical experience, relationships within the industry, and connections with North MS schools are going to help grow and improve Base Camp for the future.

SAFETY FIRST

To ensure the health and safety of our staff and students, we have implemented several new policies:

- Student temperatures are checked each morning with wall-mounted thermometers. (Think speed-traps for temperature.)
- The classrooms have been expanded to allow every student a private work station, complete with personal sanitizing and cleaning supplies.
- Moving into Everest has provided a surplus of space for social distancing!
- Masks are worn inside the Base Camp facility at all times, (except during lunch.) Base Camp masks were provided by Ms. Dean Huckaby, who worked as a seamstress from 1964-1973 inside the factory building that has become Everest.
- If any student, staff, or immediate family member tests positive for COVID-19, that individual transitions to virtual learning, (or teaching,) for 2 weeks.



NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

As excited as we are to be at Everest every day, we cannot wait for our partners to join us! Northwest Mississippi Community College will be co-locating with us in the adjacent wing of Everest in the coming months. The cross-pollination between our two organizations has been a foundational part of Base Camp's success, and we look forward to the new opportunities the future holds. The President of NWCC, Dr. Michael Heindl, said the following when asked about this new expansion: "We at Northwest Mississippi Community College are excited about the expanded Career-Technical, Workforce, and Healthcare training opportunities that will be available to the citizens of Yalobusha County, and beyond, at Everest." We know that these additional opportunities are exciting for the community, and our students are very excited about receiving college credit through NWCC along with their Base Camp certificate!

OUR SPONSORS Who make it all possible...

Base Camp Sustaining Sponsors - The MorganWhite Group, The CSpire Foundation, CoreLogic, Renasant Bank.

Everest Summit Sponsors - The MorganWhite Group, CoreLogic, Renasant Bank.

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

Community Sponsors – Facebook, Diane and Dickey Scruggs, Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy with Making it Happen Foundation, BrainShark.

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, 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.

