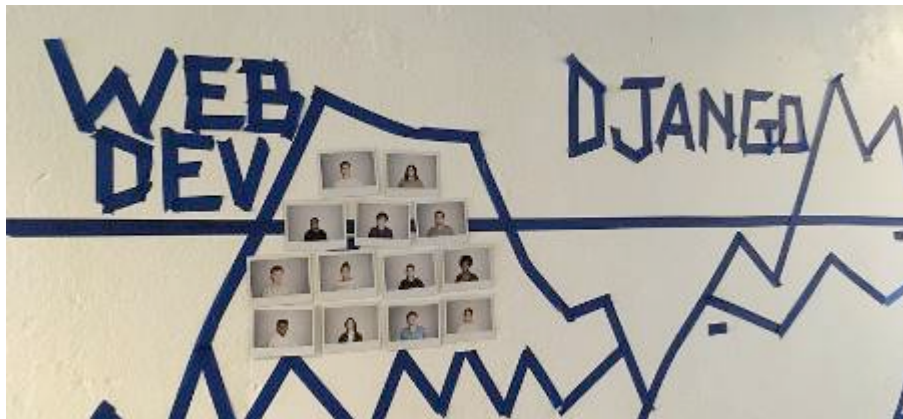# Base Camp Coding Academy
Newsletter

We start and end each year at Base Camp with a thank you to everyone who makes this program possible. What happens in the Base Camp classroom is a step in the process, made possible by the hard work, support, and dedication of our Sponsors, Staff, Students, Nominators, and Board. Thank you all.
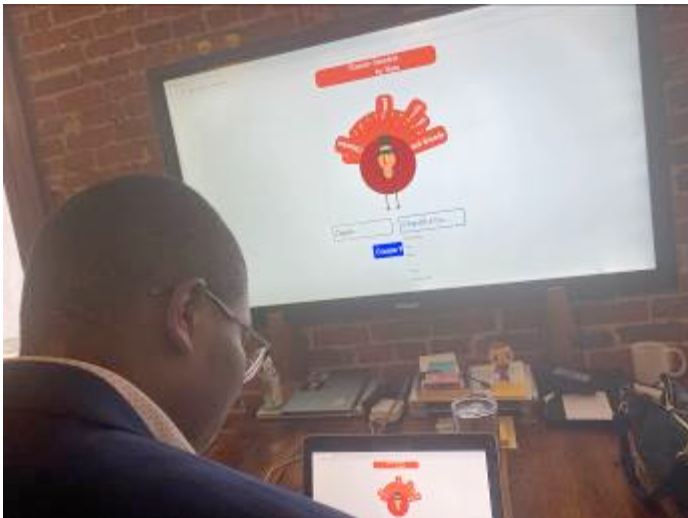
Inside the Classroom:

Students took part in the second quarter evaluations on Friday, November 1st. Fourteen students were promoted to the next phase of the year, where students have mastered their skills in the basics of web development. They are currently working on creating their first full-stack web applications using the Django web framework.

The students have continued to use their new talents in web development to improve their portfolios. Their personal sites are filling with example programs they have built, and the class spends time each day curating their work. Please take a moment to peruse their work on the Portfolios page at the Base Camp website: https://basecampcodingacademy.org/student-portfolios

The students and some of our board celebrated an early Thanksgiving by having a class lunch. Students and visitors provided all the meals, and it was a great opportunity to connect and commune with each other.

The class transformed the classroom into a dining hall for the event, and students shared their thanks with a student-created web application featuring a turkey who's feathers expressed user-entered words of thanks.

Students are still working strong on their **Leadership Projects**. Recently, our Management Team started a recycling initiative to help the class be more mindful about their environmental impact.

For some fun at the end of October, the class held a Halloween celebration. It included games, costumes, and an overall fun experience for the class.

Classroom Highlights:

Django Thankfulness Turkey
Will Warren built a full stack Django application that allows users to create a "Thankfulness Turkey" and add a feather for each thing they are thankful for. You can share the link to your turkey and allow groups of people to contribute to the same turkey.

Independently Learning C#
Devin Booker and Angie Unda are spending their independent time learning C#. Their goal is to complete a Python benchmark assignment using C# and complete a Django benchmark assignment using ASP.Net Core. Devin completed the Dog Store Python benchmark and published his C# solution on GitHub.

HTML/CSS Star Wars Introduction Blog Post
Angie Unda created an HTML/CSS implementation of the classic Star Wars introduction scene. She wrote about her project and the techniques she used in a blog post that she published to dev.to.

Where are we?
Yearly Unit Overview

Fundamentals with Python	Front End Development with HTML, CSS and JS	Back End Development with Django	Full Stack Development with Django	Fundamentals with Java	API Development with Spring	Resume Building and Job Search

Field Trips:

The class took a trip to visit CSpire in their Ridgeland offices on Thursday, November 14th. It was an amazing experience to see so many of our alumni working hard, and we had a great time making connections with the current and previous classes. We were additionally surprised to have the Creekmores join us for lunch!

We took a trip in October to the FedEx campus in Collierville, TN, where we were happy to see alumni Jacob Spence and a team of supporters. The students took a campus tour, learned about FedEx, and received advice on advancing their technical careers and employment opportunities at FedEx.

Classroom Visitors:

- December 11th: Chris Floyd, Senior Technical Product Manager at Core Logic, led the classroom in a seminar on software life cycles.
- November 18th: Sam Stubbs, a Systems Manager with Salsbury, shared with the students his path to IT work, and he graciously answered student questions.
- November 12th: Sloan Westmoreland from WISE Staffing came to meet with the students in hopes to help land employment with local tech companies.
- November 8th: Alumni Martin Guzman and Jo'Tavious Smith came to support the current class in a Django assignment and share about their experiences working at CSpire.
- October 17th: Chloe Cantor and Al David Saab from the Office of Senator Roger Wicker stopped by to learn more about Base Camp and our expansion with Project Everest.

- October 2nd: Jason Dunn, President at Spot Traceability, visited our campus to learn about Base Camp and share how programming is transforming his industry.
- October 1st: Julien Gallo and Ben Lewis from Griot Arts in Clarksdale visited to meet with the class and see the facility to help create similar opportunities in the state.

Incoming Class:

Nominations and applications are open for the upcoming Base Camp class! If you know a great candidate for the program, please nominate them today! www.basecampcodingacademy.org/nominate

We had a great time on Friday, December 6th, when a group of interested students visited the classroom for a prospective student open house. Our visitors had the opportunity to eat lunch with the class and ask questions of current Base Camp cohort. The students were able to showcase some of their talents and interests by presenting their work and partaking in coding challenge questions. We enjoyed seeing interest from North Panola, South Pontotoc, Union County, Tupelo, Saltillo, and more! The Open House aligned with Water Valley's Christmas parade, and the Base Campers could not resist having some fun with the photo display.

Everest: Mississippi's First Rural Education and Innovation Hub

Everest is a Go!

We are very excited to announce the successful completion of the fundraising campaign. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Everest will serve as an endowment for Base Camp and complimenting programs to serve our local youth and the business needs of our technology sector across the state for decades to come.

(As the work starts in January to transition this garment factory into a re-energized economic engine for Mississippi, we will do our best to control the number of exciting construction photos we share!)

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

Summit Sponsors:
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The MorganWhite Group

The CSpire Foundation
CoreLogic
Renasant Bank
FedEx

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:
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