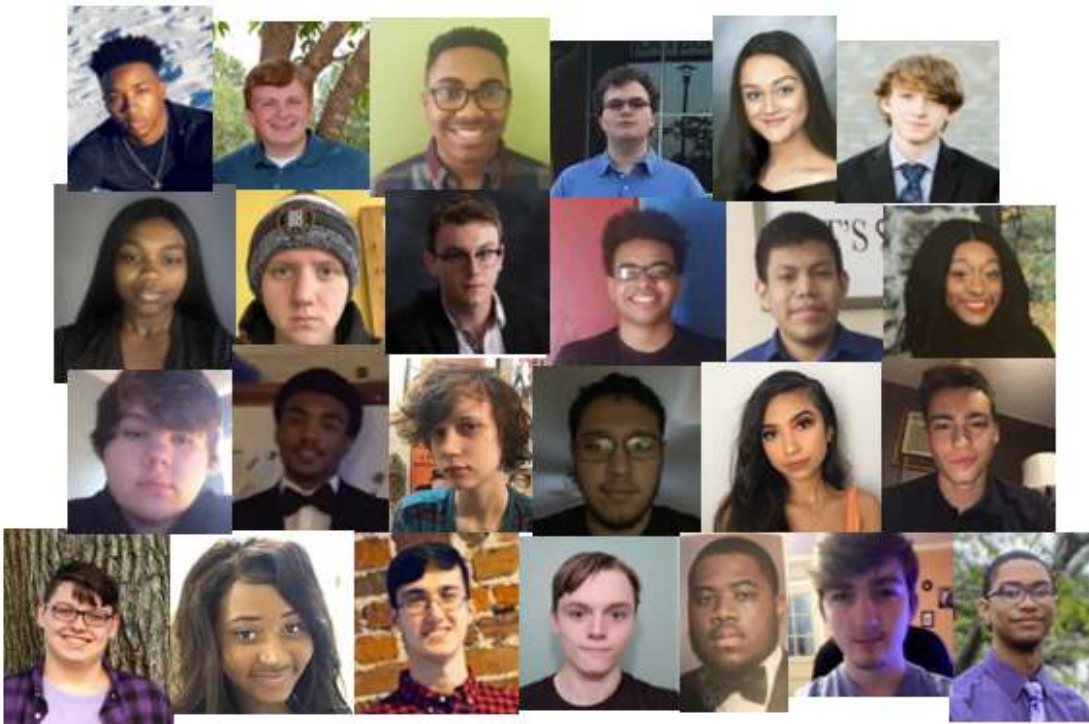


# Base Camp Coding Academy Newsletter

There are so many reasons to invest in a program like Base Camp Coding Academy. Somewhere in that list: Having something positive and uplifting to read about during a pandemic...

## Introducing the Base Camp Class of 2021!



Bryce Taylor | Morgan Owens | Al Dees | Seth Hogue | Lathe Ward | Greg "Scott" Bowles | Dylan McCreary  
Lance Easley | Loveleen Kaur | Ethan Bishop | Nelson Brown | Andy Duarte | India Ward | Matthew Wilson  
Jeremiah Bass | Asiah Moton | Kenia Sandoval-Lopez | Travis Alexander | Jeremiah Tatum | Ashulon "AJ"  
Hardaway | Sean Coh | Charles Bradley Mardis | Joseph Dandan | Evan Sanders | Frederick Lamou Russell, II

This fresh crop of young Mississippi talent represents 15 area public high schools, and two homeschooling programs. They have weathered a challenging senior year of their high school experience, a new socially-distanced admissions process with Base Camp, and a creative summer of small projects that will lean into the delayed targeted start date of September 8<sup>th</sup> this year.

The decision was made to begin this class in the new Everest facility in September, where a combination of space and new video equipment will allow us to provide a safe learning and work environment, without compromising the benefits of collaboration and constant access to teaching staff that has made Base Camp's model so successful over the past 4 years.

## Base Camp Class of 2020:

The Base Camp class of 2020 completed the last 3 months of the program remotely, and graduated virtually this past May, into a challenging job market. At this time one student has elected to continue his education, and *every other graduate has secured an internship or employment opportunity with CSpire, Morgan White Group, or CoreLogic.*

We are so proud of the accomplishments of these young professionals, and of the amazing businesses that continue to lead Mississippi's efforts in growing and employing our future tech workforce.

**\*\*Fun anecdote:** Umesh Sanjanwala, the State Director for Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, reached out with an idea for an application to improve office efficiency. While waiting to start his position at CoreLogic, Derek Stegall, class of 2020, built and delivered a solution in two short weeks. One more benefit of a home-grown tech workforce, proud of their skills and excited to help their communities and grow their portfolios!

## Staff Updates:

Fernae Ellard has been promoted to **Director** of Base Camp Coding Academy. Fernae joined Base Camp as an instructor in the spring of 2019, and since that time has excelled at every new level of responsibility we have handed to her. Moving forward Fernae will lead classroom culture, and own the Professionalism and Community components of the Base Camp curriculum.

Nate Clark, Senior Technical Director, will own and lead the Technical curriculum components for the fifth year! With the ever-shifting landscape this spring and summer, Nate and Fernae have taken the Base Camp curricula to a whole new level, developing lesson plans, video-based instructional content, and interactive assessment and benchmarking tools to support students' growth and success through the current and any future disruptive events.

## Everest, Mississippi's First Rural Education and Innovation Hub:

September? Yes, September.

We all know what challenges this year has presented. And yet, thanks to our ever-generous Sponsors, the hard working Mississippi construction professionals, and all the other parties that have a role in such a large physical and financial project, **Everest** is on schedule!

Base Camp students are targeted to begin classes on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Northwest Mississippi Community College is planning to start its programs later this fall.

The Open House? We can't wait to have everyone come celebrate Mississippi's new Tech Education crown jewel with us. Watch out for an invitation soon...



New roof, windows, and paint on the outside.



One of the most exciting days, CSpire Fiber completing their 12 mile (underground) run to Everest!



Walls, floors, wiring, skylights, hvac, plumbing... paint going up now.



A Base Camp classroom. Distance-learning video-conferencing system coming next week!

### **In the News:**

Nicole Hughes, (Base Camp class of '17,) and Kagan Coughlin were interviewed by Base Camp friend Zachary Mannheimer for his Ninety-Seven podcast. available to listen to on his website here:

<http://ninetysevenpodcast.com/s1e2p1/>

Zachary has a unique national perspective on tech in rural America, and brings interesting perspectives to the conversation, including a former classmate of his, Representative Ro Khanna, from Silicon Valley.

## **Base Camp Community of Sponsors:**

### **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

### **Everest Summit Sponsors:**

The MorganWhite Group  
CoreLogic  
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### **Sustaining Sponsors:**

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The CSpire Foundation  
CoreLogic  
Renasant Bank

### **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:**

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AOL  
Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy with Making it Happen Foundation  
LuLu's Shoes & Accessories