



Issue #4
April 22, 2016

Base Camp Coding Academy Newsletter

Founding Partners:

You may have seen this headline in area newspapers and on HottyToddy.com in the last few days: *“Northwest Mississippi Community College is partnering with Base Camp Coding Academy of Water Valley to expand the regional education resources for Mississippi’s next generation of software developers.”*

David Campbell, district dean of Career, Technical and Workforce Education at Northwest approached Base Camp early this year to look at collaboration opportunities. In early March Dwayne Casey, director of Workforce Development and Community Services for Northwest joined the conversation. David and Dwayne have structured a partnership that includes Northwest helping fund one of our instructors, providing non-credit transcripts for Base Camp graduates, (these may include course credits in the future,) and there are additional opportunities to assist future employers of Base Camp graduates in deferring the early cost of hiring these new young professionals.

We are extremely excited to have this support and ongoing relationship with Northwest, and grateful to David and Dwayne for their willingness to work with creative education solutions like ours.

Student Recruitment:

Five students have been accepted into the inaugural class of Base Camp at the time of this writing, with close to 30 more prospective students working through the interview/assessment process. Students will be accepted on a rolling admissions basis until we fill the 20 seats available at Base Camp this year. Another very positive aspect of our partnership with Northwest Mississippi Community College is our ability to assist prospective students that will not be moving forward with Base Camp in finding a path to success in one of the many programs that NWCC offers.

Classroom Setup:

Thanks to a very generous donation of 20 Mac Book Pros from an anonymous donor, the Base Camp classroom is near completion. Our final substantial piece of technology for this year, a 60-inch touch screen monitor, will be installed later this month.

Hiring Committee:

We are very excited to welcome Nate Clark as our Technical Director, and the second member of our teaching staff. Mr. Clark received his B.S. in Computer Science from Mississippi State University, and refined his classroom skills as a teacher’s assistant while pursuing his PhD at the same institution. Most recently Mr. Clark has been working with FNC Inc. of Oxford, and brings both academic and industry knowledge to the Base Camp classroom.

The teaching team of Sean Anthony and Nate Clark is extraordinary. We could not be more pleased with the opportunity the students at Base Camp will have to study under these two amazing individuals.

Fundraising Activities:

Ambassador John Palmer of Jackson is a pioneer in the telecommunications industry in Mississippi and a strong leader in technology growth and education across the state. We are very pleased to have him join the Base Camp initiative as a Founding Sponsor.

Kagan and Glen continue meeting with business and philanthropic leaders across Mississippi to ensure Base Camp has the resources to fully serve our students. Any warm introductions you can offer are greatly appreciated.

TechHire Grant:

No news has been received to date.

Classes start June 1st!

Founding Partners:

Northwest Mississippi Community College

Founding Sponsors:

The C Spire Foundation, FNC Inc., Corelogic, Ambassador John Palmer, generous/modest philanthropist #1, generous/modest philanthropist #2, generous/modest philanthropist #3

Community Sponsors:

Trustmark National Bank