



base camp
</CODING ACADEMY>

Issue #16
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Base Camp Coding Academy Newsletter

There are a number of ways we gauge progress here at Base Camp. Some of these are technical evaluation, others are formal performance reviews. These create a supportive feedback loop to allow the students, instructors, and board to collectively work towards each student's success.

There's another, less formal or quantifiable, way of measuring progress. Simply walk into the classroom and look around. In the early days of the program you would likely feel a nervous, even scared energy. Every day brings something new and intimidating, and the students are still worrying whether coding is something they want to do, or can do.

These days, 5 months in, the classroom is transformed. The eyes shine with enthusiasm, pride, and confidence. The computer screens are covered with bright colors of games and webpages the students have built from scratch. Groups forming at a single laptop are often there to appreciate the latest progress of a classmate, test out their latest improvements, and offer creative input.

These students have left the "Can I?" question in the dust.



Classroom Progress:

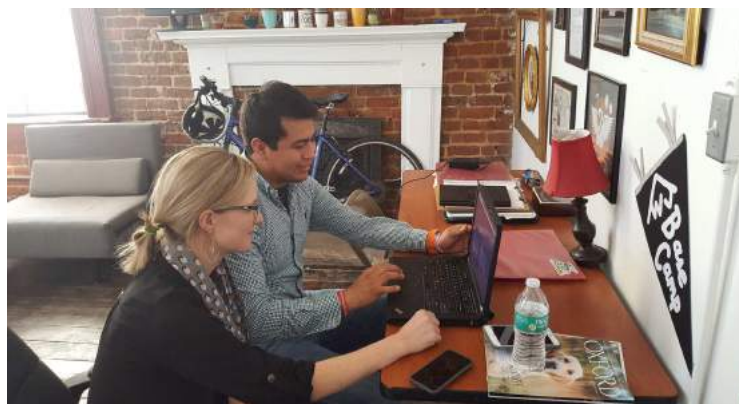
Building on their strong Python foundation, the students have transitioned into front end web development. This means they are now building the user interfaces that sit on top of raw code, the visual interfaces that we are all familiar with as users of computers, websites, and phones.

With HTML, CSS, and Bootstrap, each student has learned how to build static web pages. They are currently learning the tools required to make those static pages dynamic with JavaScript and JQuery.

Student portfolios are available to view here: <https://basecampcodingacademy.org/student-portfolios>

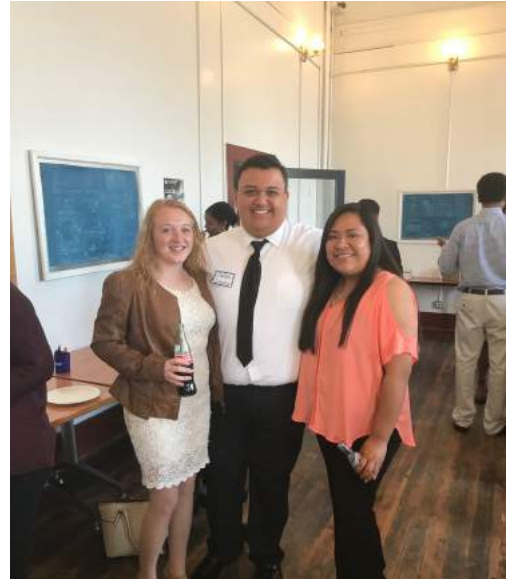
Classroom Visitors:

Sage Nichols, Bethany Cooper, and John Marsalis from Corelogic | FNC, (and Base Camp board members,) have led an ongoing series of resume workshops in the classroom. The first visit was an introduction to the fundamentals of building a resume, and two weeks later they returned to provide one-on-one feedback of each student's current resume.



This series culminated with a Meet the Companies event, with several of our Founding and Community Sponsors volunteering their time to provide a final round of one-on-one feedback for each student on their current resume. This was like speed-dating, but with each student having the opportunity to meet and share their information with several companies, and vice-versa.

A huge thank you to Michelle Quina/Michelyn Smith/Jason Campbell from FedEx, Carla Lewis/Mary Claire Parish from CSpire, Sage Nichols /John Marsalis from Corelogic | FNC, and Eli Gross from Trustmark. A special thank you to Bethany Cooper for making this event happen.



Final thanks to James H., James S., Anna, and Addey from the Base Camp class of 2017, who took time out of their work schedules at FedEx to attend and offer their encouragement to the current class.

Congressman Trent Kelly's team of field representatives paid us a visit to learn what this program is all about, and to offer words of encouragement to the class. Thank you to Anna Lisa Roberts, Walt Starr, and Adam Grubbs for stopping by.



Field Trips:

Renasant Bank once again opened their doors to us for a visit to their state of the art technology facility in Tupelo, MS, and coordinated a video conference with their development teams from across their organization. These opportunities to see real-world application of the skills they are learning is what keeps the Base Camp students motivated. All the positive, encouraging words we provide cannot compare with getting to see the inside of a company and meet the friendly, welcoming people who work there.

Thank you to Zack Bishop – Rensant Bank's CIO, who always says yes to us before we ask, and everyone on his team who took time to make us feel so welcome.

**Class of 2017 Update:**

Six of our graduates have finished their summer internships with FedEx under the Pathfinder program, a FedEx initiative to hire high-tech employees who have taken a non-traditional education path. All six of these young professionals have had their contracts extended by FedEx.

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. Wade Meena has taken the reigns of these media platforms, and is doing a great job keeping them active and informational.

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

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

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