



base camp  
CODING ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER  
Issue #28  
Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020



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## UNIT PROJECTS

BCCA students completed their first Unit on Python at the beginning of October. Each Unit culminates in a week-long Unit Project. During the week, each student pair was responsible for creating their own idea, writing a proposal, and producing the necessary code to complete that project. At the end of the week, the student pairs also presented their projects to the staff and a few board members. Even though these students are just four weeks into the content, we had some outstanding projects!

## NWCC JOINS EVEREST

On September 28th, 2020, Northwest Mississippi Community College was officially handed the keys for their new satellite campus at Everest...

FINISH READING ON PG. 2



## C SPIRE VISITS EVEREST

On Friday October 9th, Base Camp Coding Academy (BCCA) hosted a group of executives and BCCA alumni from C Spire. This visit allowed our current Base Camp students to build relationships with Base Camp alumni who are current C Spire employees...

FINISH READING ON PG. 3



## JOHN TARENZIO RETURNS

Base Camp has welcomed back John Terenzio as the software engineer in residence for a third year. He will be assisting the students on a weekly basis on coding and career development...

FINISH READING ON PG. 4

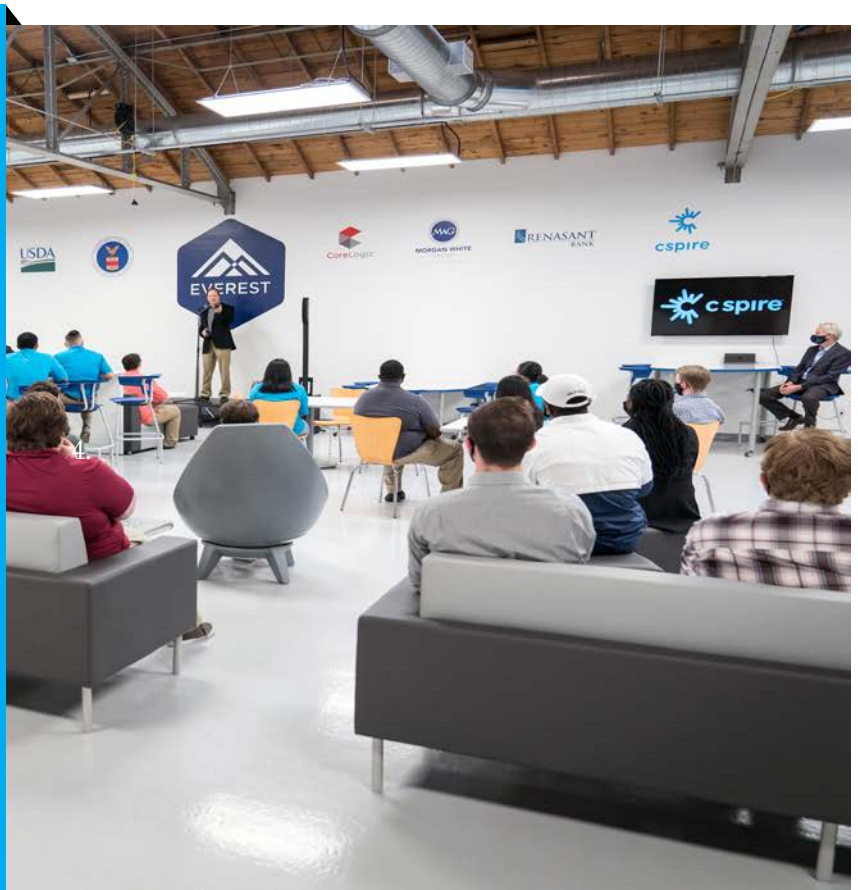




On September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Northwest Mississippi Community College was officially handed the keys for their new satellite campus at Everest! President Dr. Michael Heindl, Associate Vice President for Workforce Solutions and Career-Technical Education, Dwayne Casey, and several Northwest directors joined us for the morning. In addition, Water Valley Mayor Donald Gray, the full Yalobusha County Board of Supervisors, and Water Valley School District Superintendent Mr. Jerry Williams, were also in attendance. Northwest plans to house several different programs within the new space. With adult education, industrial and residential electrical labs, and a fully equipped nursing program, there's no limit to what NWCC will be able to house in their wing of Everest. Several Northwest staff members will be permanently located in this new space, and they plan to start moving in later this month. The new satellite campus will be fully operational by the Spring.



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## C SPIRE VISITS EVEREST

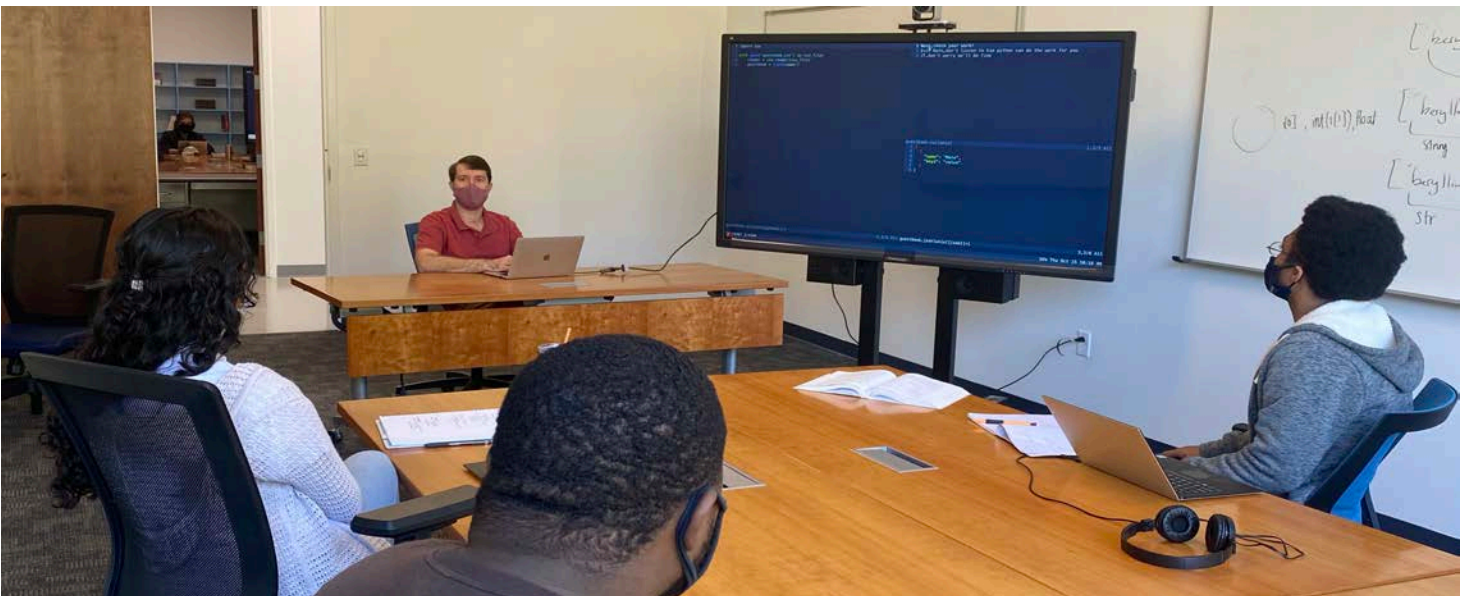
On Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>, Base Camp Coding Academy (BCCA) hosted a small group of executives and BCCA alumni from C Spire. This visit allowed our current Base Camp students to build relationships with Base Camp alumni who are current C Spire employees. This was also the first opportunity for the C Spire team to visit Everest, the new home of Base Camp that, thanks to C Spire’s amazing support, boasts some of the fastest fiber internet service in the state. During the visit, C Spire Chief Executive Officer, Hu Meena, spoke about the ongoing positive relationship between C Spire and BCCA. “The engine of our state’s economy, our nation and the world are being driven by the internet, digital commerce and technology innovation,” said C Spire CEO Hu Meena. “At C Spire, we are committed to ensuring that Mississippi will be at the head of the line in this rapid transformation to a knowledge and technology-based economy and programs like the Base Camp Coding Academy are going to help us get there sooner.” He also recognized Carla Lewis, C Spire Chief Technology Officer and BCCA Board Member, for her incredible contributions to this collaboration. Finally, Mr. Meena

and Beth Pickering, C Spire Foundation Executive Director, presented BCCA co-founders, Kagan Coughlin and Glen Evans, with C Spire’s yearly contribution which covers 20% of BCCA’s yearly operating budget. To end the day, C Spire visitors were invited to visit with the current BCCA students as they showed off their first Unit Projects. “Computer science education and skills are a critical component to a successful and productive career in information technology,” said C Spire CTO Carla Lewis. “C Spire is investing our time and resources to ensure that Mississippi is a leader in the rapid transition to a 21st century digital economy.” When asked about the visit, BCCA Executive Director, Corey Mize, said: “It’s so incredible that these C Spire executives, the Creekmore family, and the C Spire Base Camp alumni are willing to travel up to Everest just to meet with our students. The relationships that were formed here today will be invaluable to these students as they move forward with their educations and start their careers in tech. We are so grateful for C Spire’s support of Base Camp, not only financially, but also with their time and their people.”

# JOHN TEREZIO RETURNS

**Software Engineer in Residence, John Terenzio, returns to Base Camp:**

Base Camp has welcomed back John Terenzio as the software engineer in residence for a third year. He will be working with the students on a weekly basis on coding and career development skills. Terenzio, a remote employee of Airbnb in San Francisco, has also secured space in the incubator in order to bring his links to Silicon Valley into the Everest building. "It's really incredible to see this building come back to life as a tech hub in Water Valley. The incubator space is amazing because it brings technology professionals into close proximity with the students, who can benefit from a real-world tech environment just outside their classroom door," said Terenzio. Terenzio's assistance in the classroom not only gives the students a new perspective on the content, but also allows them to build a close connection with someone who is currently in the software development industry. That is a model we hope to multiply now that we have the space to do so at Everest.



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*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.

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