Class of 2021: Where they are now…

The Base Camp class of 2021 graduated on August 14th.
Base Camp's mission can be condensed into a single metric—alumni in the workforce—and out of the 17 students that graduated in August, only one remains available for hire, and is actively interviewing. We are so proud of each of them for successfully completing the Base Camp program, navigating the application and interview steps, and securing their positions with these amazing companies!

Travis Alexander (C Spire) **Jeremiah Bass** (ADSi)

Ethan Bishop (CoreLogic) **Gregory Bowles** (CoreLogic)

Sean Coh (Interviewing) **Joseph Dandan** (FedEx) **Andy Duarte** (ADSi)

Lance Easley (CoreLogic) **Seth Hogue** (C Spire)

Loveleen Kaur (C Spire) **Charles Mardis** (C Spire)

Dylan McCreary (C Spire) **Kenia Sandoval** (C Spire)

Jeremiah Tatum (ADSi) **Bryce Taylor** (Exceed Technologies)

Lathe Ward (Three Rivers Planning and Development District) **Matthew Wilson** (C Spire)

2023 ADMISSIONS ARE OPEN!

BCCA just ramped up its admission process this month. We are heightening our focus on outreach and diversity to increase the number of students we can recruit and ensure our classes better represent the communities we serve. To accomplish these two objectives, we have made some changes to our admissions process and increased our presence at career fairs and schools across north MS.

New this year: we have already started accepting nominations and applications, a shift from waiting until January as we've done in years past. We continue to require a nomination and application before first

interviews, however based on feedback from our nominators we believe we will reach more students by starting our process earlier in the year. Our outreach has expanded to include career fairs, (four to date!) in parallel with trips to classrooms across the state to make sure Mississippi's high school students know about Software Development as a career option, and Base Camp as a pathway to that career. In the coming months we will be in the schools within our commuting distance to make sure every student that needs Base Camp knows we are here for them.

As a reminder, we have our own, unique, admission process. We do not review student GPAs or test scores to make selection decisions, and we do not expect students to know how to program to be admitted to Base Camp.

Our selection process is solely based on the Nominator's recommendation, the Student's application, the Student's response to the programming and aptitude challenges they are provided by Base Camp, and the Student's performance during the two rounds of interviews.

If you know of a student you would like to nominate, please fill out this form: https://forms.gle/Qi7ssxm3yff7gNQ27

If you have any questions about our admissions process or Base Camp itself, please feel free to reach out to Corey Mize at corey@basecampcodingacademy.org.

Technical Progress

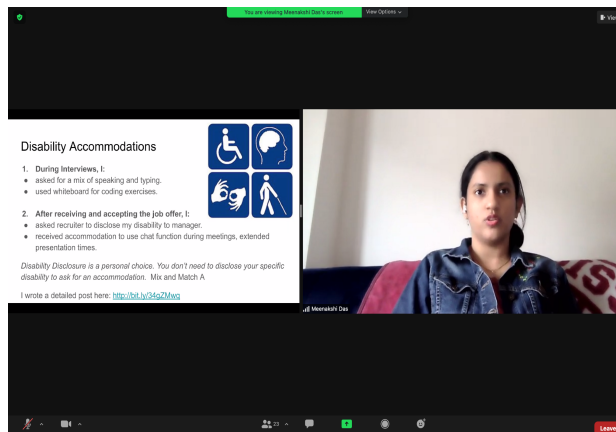The class of 2021 is now over 4 months into their year with Base Camp!

For the past five weeks, Base Camp students have been learning to use Django to build sites with user-generated relational data. The objectives of this unit are to develop dynamic, database-backed websites, understand the basics of HTTP, process user input, and design a simple database scheme. At the end of the unit, students will present to their peers their original projects, demonstrating the storage and retrieval processes using databases they developed.

Each student has created their public portfolio here: https://basecampcodingacademy.org/student-portfolios/

Base Camp students demonstrate their expanded skills throughout the year by applying them to projects. Literally they build things with code, over and over, as a foundational learning principle, as well as the most transparent way for each of them to demonstrate their abilities to future employers.

Each student will post their code and completed projects to their portfolios throughout the year. If you are looking to hire a new software developer, or would simply like to boost your day with a view into how amazing these young professionals are, please visit their portfolios on the Base Camp website, or click this link: https://basecampcodingacademy.org/student-portfolios/

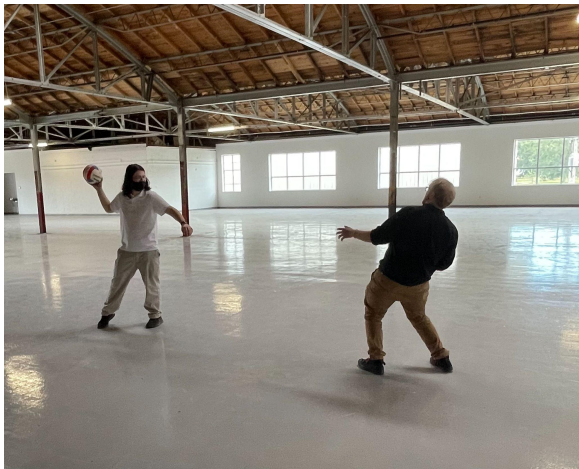# Edney and Das Visit BCCA

Along with our hands-on approach to learning technical skills, Base Camp also prides itself on preparing our students for the workplace environment, with specific attention paid to proper workplace professionalism. On the 21st of September, students were guided through a short course by Dr. EJ Edney, the Director of the University of Mississippi's Center For Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement. Through the duration of this presentation, Dr. Edney not only defined what diversity was within a workplace, but also gave tips on promoting a space of inclusion for all. Later in the month, on the 27th, Microsoft Software Engineer, Meenakshi Das, presented on the importance of website accessibility, and how software developers should strive to include the disabled, along with the abled. We're very thankful for the opportunity to have such guest speakers!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This month we are highlighting Dylan Goad. Dylan is from Charleston MS, and chose to attend BCCA because he's always been interested in how things work, especially computers. His plan is to build experience in the workforce, as he seeks to change the world one day. Dylan's favorite part of Base Camp is the concept of the program, as it allows Mississippi students a new path that was previously unheard of.

Unwinding at BCCA

Here at Base Camp, where 40 hours a week of intense learning can seem even longer, we find creative ways to relieve stress and nurture our team spirit. Earlier this month, the students played several high stakes matches of dodgeball, where Dylan Shipton showed his true skills in the sport. Dodging, ducking, weaving and throwing, he impressed with his mastery during the games.

Later in the month, the Community team organized an event that allowed the students to sing karaoke. Notable songs that were performed were Ben Crosby and Ma'Kyla Person's rendition of "Rags2Riches" by Rod Wave and Ryan Bennett and Dylan Shipton's version of "Never Gonna Give You Up" by Rick Astley.

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Base Camp Pilot (2016-2019)

Founding Partner - Northwest Mississippi Community College.

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