NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Artificial Intelligence!

Continued advancements in technology have transformed AI from a simple tool for retrieving information into a powerful engine for creation. Large language models, once limited to simple search queries, can now generate high-quality text, images, videos, code, and even full-blown products. This evolution is changing how AI is helpful to a business, from finding existing data to creating content and applications, marking a significant transition in AI's journey from a research curiosity to a mainstream creative force.

This is changing our world rapidly, increasing productivity, lowering costs, and creating innovative opportunities in a way the world has not seen before.

At Base Camp Coding Academy, where we train the future talent that will lead our technical economy in the coming decades, this has raised opportunities and challenges to what we teach and how we teach it. AI tools, in the hands of capable engineers, can multiply output, quality, and efficiency. To continue the tradition of excellence that Base Camp has established over past 10 years, our students are learning how to responsibly leverage AI tools to help them save time and push their output and creativity to new heights.

At the same time, the core concepts that make a strong software developer cannot be shortchanged in the learning process. While we are reading stories of students turning in AI-generated assignments to teachers who are using AI tools to grade those assignments, our students are not skipping the hard work of understanding the fundamentals behind the code they will produce in their careers.

Why? Because for users without a strong foundation and understanding of what is being produced, leveraging AI tools to build software can become a dangerous shortcut. AI can hallucinate, security vulnerabilities can be introduced, and performance, scalability, and maintainability challenges can creep in. Base Camp has always been about solutions for both today's and tomorrow's challenges, and not shying away from doing the hard work now. We remain nimble with our curriculum, ensuring we are best able to adapt to our hiring partners' needs, and we are confident that our graduates will continue to exemplify this value as capable wielders of AI tools coupled with their strong foundation in the core principals of coding.

For our community of business partners, we are excited to enter this new chapter with you, and trust that you will continue to invest in your future workforce at Base Camp. We are committed to working with you to best understand changes in your industries and technologies, as well as your hiring needs, so that we may continue to support you with a pipeline of technology talent. To that end we would love it if you could take a moment to complete our **Employer Survey**. As always, continuous feedback from our employer partners is the lodestar of our curriculum development.

In this new age of AI, today's junior developers will become tomorrow's senior technical leaders and managers. Base Camp Coding Academy produces those driven, eager, and curious junior developers.

We hope you enjoy reading in the following pages about all the dividends this past year has returned on your investment, friendship, and support of Base Camp.

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

On May 3, 2025, twenty newly qualified software developers graduated, embarking on diverse paths that include internships, full-time positions, and even a few who decided to further their education at local community colleges and universities.

We were honored to have Dr. Viola Acoff, Dean of the School of Engineering and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Mississippi, serve as our Commencement Speaker, and members of our Alumni Association reflected on their time as students as well as provided advice and insight for our graduates as they launched their careers in technology.

SHOUTOUT TO OUR ALUMNI

Base Camp Coding Academy supports the needs of local and regional employers for technology capable employees with a foundation in software development, while providing pathways to technology oriented jobs for underserved individuals in our area. Our 160+ graduates now work in a variety of IT positions at companies such as Cotality, ADSi, C Spire, Morgan White Insurance, Trustmark Bank, Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power Association, and many others!

We'd like to give a huge congratulations to our alumni who recently obtained new positions or have received a of promotion since our last newsletter:

c spire	cotality	mTrade	BankPlus
Faustino Buenrostro	Ja'Quan Buford	Brittney Bean	Robbin Skeen
Alyx Chavire	Kera Wicker	Lucas Dickerson	
Daniel Christy		Caleb Horn	
Arianna Kennedy		Joshua Mooneyham	
Jet Roberts		Jacob Padgett	
Eddie Rosas			

ADP	THE UNIVERSITY of MISSISSIPPI	MATILDA TECH	Highland Hills Medical Center
Michael Harris	Anthony Williams	Gage Schaffer	Dustin Weeks
		Aidan Swendsen	

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INTRODUCING THE
Class of 2026

The Class of 2026 began their training on May 27th, bringing together students from across the North Mississippi region. Among our recent high school graduates, ten schools are represented, while our adult students come from six local counties, highlighting the broad reach of both programs.

This diverse group of learners is united by a shared drive to grow their technical skills, build new opportunities, and continue our mission of creating pathways into technology careers.

During their eleven months at Base Camp, these students will learn **at least** nine unique coding languages and frameworks, build and present multiple projects, and work with community partners to offer tech-based solutions and support.

WE EXPECT THESE STUDENTS TO NOT JUST SUCCEED, BUT TO STAND OUT – TO REPRESENT THE HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND EXCELLENCE THAT DEFINES BASE CAMP.

THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT LANDING A JOB; IT'S ABOUT MAKING AN IMPACT!

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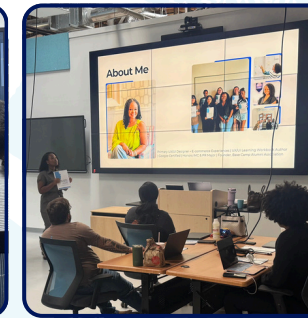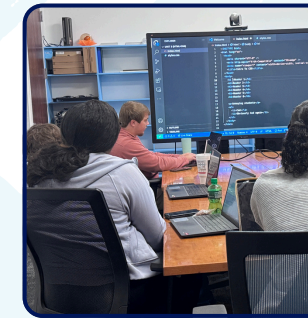</CODING ACADEMY>

STUDENT PROGRESS

Our students are currently building a strong foundation with Python, SQL, and HTML/CSS, which are cornerstones of modern programming that each bring unique strengths to the table. Soon, they'll take their skills even further, diving into JavaScript, Django, Java, and Spring to round out their full-stack expertise. Their journey isn't just technical, though! They're also sharpening their professional tools by crafting standout resumes and LinkedIn profiles, practicing through mock interviews, and engaging in team-building exercises that prepare them to thrive in collaborative, real-world environments.

Python is a versatile, beginner-friendly programming language known for its simplicity and readability. It's widely used across industries for web development, data analysis, machine learning, automation, and game development. SQL (Structured Query Language) is the standard language used to interact with relational databases: it lets you store, retrieve, update, and organize data. In simple terms, SQL is how you ask a database questions.

HTML & CSS

HTML and CSS are the backbone of the web—HTML provides the structure of a page, while CSS brings it to life with design, layout, and visual flair. Together, they power everything from simple websites to responsive designs and dynamic animations.

BASE CAMP PARTNERS

Base Camp students have had the opportunity to collaborate with local and national partners in tech to enhance their training and begin creating their professional networks.

Base Camp students learn more than just technical skills! This summer, our class worked with **Heidi Myers** and **Briana Addison**, psychology graduate students from the University of Mississippi, to discuss and learn strategies for stress management and selfcare. We're grateful to **Natalie Bryant** from PsychoSocial Solutions, who arranged this valuable opportunity for the class and whose counseling practice has an office right here in Everest.

This year we'll be working with the **Mississippi Artificial Intelligence Network (MAIN)** to provide our students with free AI training from Intel to ensure our curriculum stays cutting edge. Some of the topics included in their platform include:

- Intro to Generative AI
- AI for Cybersecurity
- Natural Language Processing
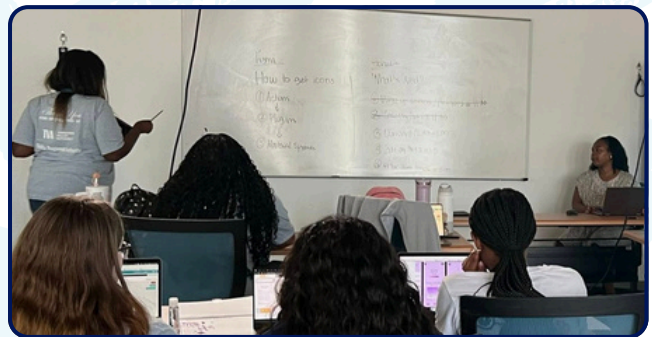- Applied Ethics for AI
- AI for Sustainability.

We collaborated with the **University of Mississippi's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship** to build out the digital side of their students' business plans for the Base Camp capstone projects. These included a one-stop shop for lacrosse players, coaches and fans in the state, an AI tool to improve resumes, a social media platform to help students find study partners, and a mapping instrument for civil engineers.

PIONEER PROGRAMMERS CODING CAMP

Every summer, Base Camp hosts the Pioneer Programmers Coding Camp, a **free** camp for rising junior and senior high school females. Through a series of hands-on, team-oriented activities, they learn the fundamentals of designing and implementing brand new products through the programming and problem-solving processes taught at Base Camp. They also get the chance to meet other females from all over North MS, interact with current Base Camp students, hear from seasoned programming professionals, show off their projects to everyone at the camp, and enjoy the games and social events we host throughout the week.

This year's Pioneer Programmers Camp was generously sponsored by **Tennessee Valley Authority**.

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING NEXT YEAR'S FREE PIONEER PROGRAMMERS CODING CAMP?
We need to increase the female voice in this field, and we need you to help us make that happen! Be part of the movement to bring more females into the programming field by joining us for next summer's camp in Water Valley, MS. If you are interested in technology and/or don't really know what career you want to pursue, this camp is for you!
- Participants must be a female entering 11th or 12th grade next school year (SY 26/27) to attend the camp.
- Participants must have the ability to commute to and from Water Valley, MS each day. This is not an overnight camp, and we do not provide housing.
- Lunch will be provided each day.

REGISTRATION OPENS SPRING 2026!

BASE CAMP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Base Camp Alumni Association was established by graduates of Base Camp Coding Academy who recognized the value of fostering a strong and supportive community for fellow alumni. Their mission is to empower alumni by offering resources and opportunities to help them thrive professionally and personally. They connect companies with alumni portfolios to facilitate hiring opportunities, provide career assistance, host engaging alumni events, and create pathways for higher education. Additionally, they offer a variety of support services, including scholarships, career guidance, and personal development tools, ensuring alumni have the resources they need to succeed beyond graduation.

GABRIEL ADAMS
Class of 2023

RYLEE CHISHOLM
Class of 2022

CANNON NARMOUR
Class of 2023

KERA WICKER
Class of 2024

TREY SHELTON
Class of 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, VISIT BASECAMPALUMNIASSOCIATION.ORG!

≫ COMING UP IN OCTOBER ≪

2025 ALUMNI PANEL: FROM CODE TO CAREER

Designed for tech-focused high school students and adults 20+ exploring a career in technology.

On Friday, October 24, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Base Camp Coding Academy in Water Valley, MS, the Base Camp Alumni Association will host its Alumni Impact Panel. This engaging event will highlight how graduates transform their lives by going from "Code to Career" in just one year, often immediately after high school. Alumni from both Base Camp programs will share their personal stories, creating a welcoming space for attendees of all ages. The panel is especially valuable for students enrolled in technology-focused classes like CTE, ICT, Computer Science, and College & Career Readiness programs, as well as for adults 20 years and older who may be seeking a fresh start in technology. Community members will walk away with a clear understanding of the opportunities Base Camp provides and the impact it continues to make in the lives of its graduates.

Planning to bring your school or organization to the event, either virtually or in person? Complete our registration form by **clicking here**, or visiting https://forms.gle/GCzEhcYqSnC1bc2y5.

CLASS OF 2027 ADMISSIONS

Whether you're a recent graduate or an adult seeking a career change, Base Camp offers the first step into technology. Our in-person program in Water Valley, MS equips students with strong software development skills and the confidence to succeed as problem solvers in today's digital world. With limited space and high expectations, this competitive program requires full commitment and drive, but offers a truly life-changing opportunity. Registration opened September 1, 2025, and will remain open until February 28, 2026.

CAREER-READY TRAINING
Our evolving curriculum equips students with hands-on experience in coding, app development, strategic use of AI tools, and leadership. We also provide career support through interview coaching, resume workshops, direct hiring connections, and a nationally recognized Apprenticeship USA credential.

A GROWING LEGACY
As of September 2025, Base Camp has graduated nine classes of recent high school graduates, three adult classes, and hosted 50+ female high school students in the Pioneer Program. With 160+ graduates, alumni have launched careers at top companies like Cotality, ADSi, C Spire, Morgan White Insurance and more!

100% TUITION FREE
Our students contribute all they have: time, hard work, and dedication. Base Camp provides the rest, ensuring social and economic barriers do not prevent our best and brightest from joining the future tech workforce of Mississippi.

MITIGATING OBSTACLES
Not only are our programs completely tuition free, but we also provide numerous incredible benefits, including the ability to earn college credits, work-friendly class schedules, complementary on-site childcare, and no-cost loaner laptops.

GRADUATING SENIORS DURING 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR

May 26, 2026 - May 1, 2027
Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

✓ 45 College Credit Hours Earned from Northwest Community College

ANY INDIVIDUAL 20+ YEARS OLD

May 26, 2026 - May 1, 2027
Tuesday & Thursday, 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Saturday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

✓ Free On-Site Childcare for Students
✓ Work-Friendly Schedule

1

GET ONLINE
Visit our website to learn more about Base Camp Coding Academy.

2

COMPLETE THE APPLICATION
Individuals within commuting distance to Water Valley, MS may apply to be a student.

3

RECEIVE A NOMINATION
Each applicant must be nominated by an employer, teacher, or other qualified individual who can speak to their abilities.

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TO OUR SPONSORS,
thank you!

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Tennessee Valley Authority
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Yalobusha County Board of Supervisors

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Ron Feder and Misty Shaw-Feder
Tallahatchie Valley Electric Power Association
Irene and Fred Smith
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AOL
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HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

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