

PUBLIC AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Building New Leadership

Our nation has a crisis of leadership. We've said this before, and the results from November certainly prove it. We need strong progressive leaders who are equipped to run, win, and govern effectively.

We need leaders from and of our communities—especially people of color—who will advocate for our communities' needs and win real policy change. And, we need organizers and powerful grassroots efforts to support these leaders.

That's why Wellstone's Public and Political Leadership (PPL) team has built leadership development programs across the country in places like North Carolina, California, and Baltimore.

Wellstone supports progressive leaders through many levels of leadership development: from identification and recruitment, through campaign training and into governance support.

Below, we've shared two of our PPL success stories: Baltimore and California.



Baltimore Governance Training

Baltimore

Eight new council members were elected to the Baltimore City Council in November. Six of those were Wellstone alums.

“From the moment they became candidates, they were learning how to govern the Wellstone Way,” says former Public and Political Leadership Director, Kara Hollingsworth. “These folks are different. They have a fundamentally different approach to how they come at governing and being in office.”

The story of Wellstone's work in Baltimore is a powerful example of the kind of successful leadership we're building across the country. This is what it looks like to be invested in the long-term leadership that makes real change possible.

In spring of 2015, a number of people simultaneously reached out to Wellstone about organizers and candidates in Baltimore who represented the chance for a new kind of leadership for the city:

“We want to create training opportunities for them!” is the cry we kept hearing, and folks trusted Wellstone to help create this new and needed leadership.

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FROM EDITH

In this time of resistance and rebuilding, Wellstone's work is far from business as usual. We've been flooded with calls from people around the country who are eager to get involved in our political process—perhaps for the first time—and just want to do something.

Our long-time partners on the ground are confronting new challenges—organizations who work with undocumented communities are scrambling to keep their data and their members secure from a hostile administration and need help from Wellstone's Movement Technology team to do so.

We believe more than ever that Paul was exactly right – community organizing, electoral politics, and public policy are needed in equal measure to create the kind of leadership our country needs most.

But we do this work today in the climate of absolute danger to our families and communities and urgent response to immediate threats to our safety and democracy.

And we aren't going anywhere.

Thank you for supporting this work – with your dollars, with your hands, and with your hearts. We need you today, and we need you for the years to come.

– Edith

Open races for several city council seats in 2016 helped to create momentum for this new leadership. “This was a moment of opportunity,” says Kara, “All of the factors that lead to a moment of ‘we need something different.’”

Together with local partners—Maryland Working Families (MDWF), Emerge, a committee of Baltimore leaders, and Wellstone alumni—we hosted a customized candidate and campaign management training in Baltimore. “We went to every advocacy group that was doing work around the city and asked them to identify five people to come to the training,” explains MDWF Executive Director Charly Carter. RSVPs flooded in.

30 candidates and 44 campaign volunteers and managers spent a packed weekend learning how to run a campaign the Wellstone Way — with grassroots organizing at the heart. Every campaign worker from that training went on to work on a campaign, and nearly all of the candidates went on to run for office in 2016. Every city council race in the 2016 primary had at least one Wellstone alum running. Two ran for mayor.

“Having Wellstone’s model about community engagement changed the way that campaigns were run in the city” says Charly. “It’s very hard now for someone to run if they’re not engaged on that level. What’s important about that is it changes the way people approach governing. More than it ever was before — it’s about organizing their communities.”

After the Primary, Wellstone and Working Families MD partnered with Local Progress to offer training and support those progressive candidates who had won the primary and were on the ballot in November. The five candidates who signed up became part of a New Leaders Cohort that participated in monthly governance trainings.

“The goal of the governance training was to give them the knowledge and skills they needed so they could be

effective, and could start legislating on their very first day in office,” says Charly.

Their approach is changing how the council operates. “People now see the work that these leaders are doing in the city and building that community,” Charly explains, “The people of Baltimore have hope for the first time in a long time.”

Orange County

Now in its fourth year, Wellstone’s work with the Represent OC Pipeline Project—in collaboration with Emerge California, New American Leaders Project, and Public Leadership Institute—has helped to launch hundreds of progressive leaders into public leadership roles.

“This is my model of what true long-term strategy looks like,” says Mónica Perez, principal in our PPL program, “Local ownership, a local project manager, and good, sustained funding.”

“Wellstone’s model about community engagement changed the way that campaigns were run in the city.”

Represent OC builds leadership in three ways: (1) Working within communities to identify and recruit community members to serve in leadership positions, (2) Delivering comprehensive training to build overall leadership skills and prepare candidates/staff with grassroots campaign skills, and (3) Ongoing technical assistance and support to graduates serving in a leadership position—whether in elected office, or an appointed position.

“These leaders are building their communities’ power,” says Claudia Perez Figueroa, Project Director for the Represent OC Pipeline Project, “giving them a voice in the policy decisions that impact them the most.”

In 2017, Wellstone will expand our public and political leadership work in key states where we have a chance to shift the balance of power in the 2018 mid-terms, including Minnesota. Stay tuned – and to support this work, please donate here: wellstone.org/donate

Wellstone is Growing:

Meet the newest members of our PPL Team!



Martin Diego Garcia
Director, Public and Political Leadership



Britney Whaley
Public and Political Leadership Principal



Mackenzie Taylor
Public and Political Leadership Principal, Minnesota Focus



Thank you to everyone who helped make RootsCamp a great success!

MOVEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Securing the Movement

When organizers have the support and ability to effectively use movement technology, they're able to create efficiencies in their work and build a deeper impact with their communities. Our Movement Technology team teaches skills that are crucial to the success of a modern campaign, weaving these together with Wellstone's trusted organizing principles.

In 2017, Movement Tech at Wellstone is responding to the needs of our partners and community in multiple ways:

- We've doubled the capacity of our two largest trainings—Data and Analytics Camp (Formerly Data BootCamp) and Digital Organizer School—to better meet the demand for these skills. We've also moved both of these trainings outside of the DC area, to make them more accessible to organizers across the country.
- We'll be piloting a new Movement Technology track as a part of Camp Wellstone this year. This will introduce the fundamentals of data, digital organizing, and analytics to support base-building and policy organizing campaigns.
- In response to the urgent needs and very real dangers present in this moment, our team has added a new body of data security training curriculum.

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Data Security

The threat to our movement in this moment is very real. With an administration brazenly working against the protection of civil rights and civil liberties, our partners and our movement are at risk from digital attacks like hacking and data theft, as well as unjust surveillance practices from cities and municipalities across the country.

Wellstone's Movement Technology team has heard from a broad mix of partners and organizers hoping to tap our expertise to help them secure their systems.

In a reality where the surveillance and digital attacks we all must deal with are fueled by the desire to control or profit off of populations of color, activist women and gender minorities, and the poor, security training has to be race and gender explicit.

"If you do security and training well, you're actually doing operations work," says Aliya Rahman, Director of Movement Technology. This is where Wellstone's strengths as a capacity-building organization come in. Most of this work has a short, intensive component while also integrating longer-term, one-on-

one coaching and problem-solving toward building a stronger organization, one that will ensure our communities are empowered and protected in this concerning political climate.

Digital spaces offer unique opportunities for people to share their lived realities and creative voices with others. Our Movement Tech team is helping organizers build power in those spaces.

ON OUR CALENDAR

Ready to Lead Training

with New American Leaders Project
Phoenix, AZ | February 10-12

Movement Building for Organizing, Basebuilding and Grassroots Lobbying

with North Dakota Farmers Union & North
Dakota AFLCIO
Bismark, ND | February 21

Digital Security Training

with Center for Media Justice and the
Movement for Black Lives
February 27-28

Ready to Lead Training

with New American Leaders Project
Orange County, CA | March 10-12

Camp Wellstone

Des Moines, IA | March 17-19

Data and Analytics Camp

Florida | April 3-7

Camp Wellstone

Seattle, WA | May 19-21

Building Community Power through Ranked Choice Voting

With FairVote MN
Twin Cities, MN | May

Camp Wellstone

Twin Cities, MN | June

Digital Organizer School

Atlanta, GA | June 5-9

Data and Analytics Camp

Minnesota | July 31-August 4

Digital Organizer School

September

Wellstone

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MOVEMENT BUILDING

Defending Our Democracy

Our courts have always played a crucial role in maintaining our country's checks and balances. Judicial independence is crucial for protecting our democracy and in 2017, this is more critical than ever.

In 2016, outside spending by interest groups dominated judicial elections like never before. This threatens the impartiality of our nation's court system, a balance that is crucial to our democracy.

Even so, Wellstone partners worked to successfully defend justices under attack in many states, including Kansas, Alaska, New Mexico, Arizona, and Florida.

Carin Schiewe, senior project manager for Wellstone's fair courts project, emphasizes the gravity of this work in 2017: "We're at a critical moment and the work that Wellstone is doing could make the difference."

In December of 2016, Wellstone hosted a fair courts convening in Chicago, Illinois. 50 participants from 20 states came together to connect, build community and support each other in strategic planning for the year ahead.

By and far the most powerful takeaway for the fair courts participants was a powerful sense of community. In this moment, this work which always has felt isolating by nature, weighs heavily in its urgency.

In addition to convening and supporting state-based fair courts work from across the country, Wellstone is also working to develop a training curriculum targeted at community organizers, with the goal of increasing the number of organizations that are engaged in protecting the courts.

"We can't just reach the people who already do fair courts work," says Adriana

Barboza, Wellstone's Director of Movement Building, "so we're building a framework around democracy issues, why it's important, how the courts function, how a judge becomes a judge, etc. There's a big "aha" moment for a lot of people when they see how it all fits together and connects to their issues."

The curriculum is designed to connect activ-

ists with an understanding of how their existing work intersects with the courts. Adriana explains, "Community organizers need to see democracy issues not as separate issues, but issues that are woven into their everyday advocacy."

2017 is a year where Wellstone will continue to dig in on the rules of the game – from protecting our courts to ramping up for redistricting battles and combating voter suppression, our movement building team is fired up to protect our democracy on all fronts.

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