Highlights from Data BootCamp

In February, 56 organizers from across the country gathered in Baltimore for Data BootCamp — a six-day intensive training designed to further the skills of those working in (or transitioning to) data-related positions that fuel progressive campaigns.

They came from a diversity of backgrounds and a variety of causes to unite around a common passion for data-driven strategy. Now, with new skills, expanded networks, and amplified passions, they are ready to take our movement to the next level.

Data BootCamp is only the first of an important new body of work for Wellstone. As we continue the legacy of work begun by New Organizing Institute, you’ll see more of these movement technology trainings providing important skills for organizers and campaigns to fight for a world where we all do better.

“The space that Wellstone created by bringing these people together was a powerful, potent world: we could spend all day talking about complex SQL codes and data collection ethics, only to eagerly spend all night talking about the social justice causes, campaigns, and the progressive values that unite our collective movement.” – Alex Sheldon, participant

From Ben & Edith

When Ben took over as Executive Director in 2011, Wellstone was ready to move into the next phase—to realize the dream of an organization that was deeply embedded in frontline movements for social, racial, and economic justice; laser-focused on winning now while changing what’s possible down the road; and durable enough to ignite change for generations to come.

Now, in 2016, Wellstone is realizing this future. Today, 80,000 people are Winning the Wellstone Way, and 350 frontline organizations trust in us as partners in transforming public and political leadership. We will be nearly twice the size this year than we were just five years ago, with a team that’s bigger, stronger, and more reflective of our diverse movement than ever before.

By every conceivable metric, we are positioned to continue our growth and extraordinary impact.

So it’s at this moment of strength and opportunity that we’ll be practicing what we teach and thoughtfully beginning a new era of leadership at Wellstone. We look forward to welcoming Edith Sargon as our new executive director on May 1.

Continued on page 2
[From Ben & Edith, continued]

Wellstone is going to continue its focus on winning, ensuring that our movement is built on trust, integrity, and a deep investment in each other’s success. We are going to continue our commitment to inclusive leadership that centers race, gender expression, immigration status, class background, and sexual orientation in our fight for social justice. It’s how we’re going to win the world that Paul talked about where “we all do better when we all do better”.

Thank you for joining us in everything that’s ahead. We are so proud to have you standing with us in this moment.

Ben Goldfarb, Outgoing Executive Director
Edith Sargon, Incoming Executive Director

Introducing Aliya Rahman, Director, Movement Technology

We’re elated to introduce Aliya Rahman as Wellstone’s new Director of Movement Technology.

A proud Advanced Campaign Management School alumna and long-time Wellstone trainer, Aliya brings 15 years of field campaign, software development, and training experience to the role, most recently serving as strategist and software engineer with The Sunlight Foundation.

Prior to this, Aliya was program director at Code for Progress, where she led the recruitment, training, and job placement of people of color, women, and low-income activists in full-time positions that allowed them to develop apps and technology for social justice work.

Other work Aliya has led includes: increasing the participation and power of people of color in LGBT-rights campaigns; movement building among returning citizens (formerly incarcerated people); and developing training electoral/community organizing programs.

In this new role for Wellstone, Aliya will combine her powerhouse blend of skills as a teacher, organizer, and technologist to expand the data and digital tech trainings formerly housed at New Organizing Institute.

She’s looking forward to the challenge of growing the work that NOI pioneered and expanding and deepening that impact to craft a new vision at Wellstone for what’s possible.
2016 is going to be a big year, and Wellstone has been busy making sure progressives have the tools they need. Our flagship training program kicked off the year at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. 100 people attended 2½ days of training and are now headed into the rest of 2016 with tools to win, the Wellstone Way.

From Camp Wellstone to City Council

During a presidential election year, it’s easy to get wrapped up in the big race and forget about the municipal and state races that are happening, too.

One of the most essential ways we can create a politics that improves people’s lives is by changing who’s in charge at the local level.

A great example: Nelson Rafael Roman, a graduate of Camp Wellstone, who is now serving on the City Council in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

“Whenever stuff got hard, I came back to what Wellstone taught me.”

After years of supporting other campaigns and organizing in his community, the uncontested closure of a family resource center helped push him to run for office himself.

As a young Latino, LGBT man, and openly HIV positive individual, Nelson faced a tough campaign, but he leaned on his Wellstone training throughout and won with 60% of the vote. Now, he’s an important progressive voice on a conservative council.

Head to our website to read the rest of Nelson’s story: wellstone.org/blog
ON OUR CALENDAR

Leadership Recruitment Workshop
with Working Families Pennsylvania
April 12 | Bethlehem, PA

Camp Wellstone Seattle
April 22-24 | Seattle, WA

Campus Camp Wellstone: Oberlin College
April 23-24 | Oberlin, OH

Fair Courts Planning Meeting
April 25 | Charleston, WV
April 27 | Albuquerque, NM

Camp Wellstone Virginia
with Virginia Civic Engagement Table
April 23-24 | Hampton, VA

Advanced Leadership Training
with Make It Work and ProGeorgia
May 20-21 | Atlanta, GA

Political Leadership Training
with Protect Missouri Families
May 20-21 | St. Louis, MO

Candidate, Campaign, and Organizer Training at Justice Works Convention
with Working Families New York
June 3-5

Candidate Readiness Training
with Equality Utah
July 15-17 | Salt Lake City, UT

Roots Camp 2016
November 18-20 | Washington, DC

Join us in November at RootsCamp

In November, Wellstone will be hosting RootsCamp — an annual gathering of progressive organizers from across issues and around the country who learn, celebrate, and grow together.

RootsCamp isn’t your everyday gathering; it’s an unconference.

Instead of pre-set PowerPoints and expert panels, participants design sessions and decide the program. The idea is to bring together progressives of all stripes as equals, and have an honest exchange of ideas. When we learn from one another, we take away new ideas, make new connections, and strengthen our work.

Your perspective is unique. Whether you develop and lead a session, or simply participate in the conversation, we hope you’ll come and share your experiences, knowledge and skills. You won’t just be networking and attending discussions; you’ll be helping define our work over the coming years by sharing the lessons you learned this year.

Please consider joining us November 18-20 at RootsCamp! More information and tickets available at:

rootscamp.wellstone.org

Supercharge Your Support!

Progressive victories take resources. By becoming a sustaining member of Wellstone Action, you can help us train passionate progressives to win in November and equip them with the tools they need to govern the Wellstone Way beyond Election Day.

Our 368 sustaining members know their gifts empower progressives to win big by practicing a politics that improves people’s lives, and works for the world where – as Paul Wellstone said – “we all do better when we all do better.”

Will you join our movement to carry forward the legacy of Paul and Sheila Wellstone by becoming a sustaining member today?

AS A TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION...

New sustaining donors at the $10/month level will receive an iconic Wellstone window cling.

For $20/month, receive both the window cling and a Wellstone! wristband.