

Erik S. Peterson

Education

- PhD, American Studies, University of Minnesota
Thesis: *Psychological Frontiers: Politics, Culture, and the Redefinition of Democratic Freedom*
- B.A., Biology, Gustavus Adolphus College

University Teaching Experience

- 2000-present: Northern Minnesota Programs Director, Labor Education Services, University of Minnesota
- 1995-present: Assistant Professor, Cultural Studies, University of Minnesota, Duluth.
- 1987-1993: Instructor in Composition, Literature and American Studies, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.
- 1988-1991: Instructor in Composition, Summer Institute, Office of Minority and Special Student Affairs, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Labor and Community Organizing Experience (brief overview)

- 2003-present: *Director, Labor Programs and Advanced Campaign Management Program, Wellstone Action*
- Developed Labor Program and Strategic Outreach Plan
 - Develop customized curriculum and trainings for labor electoral, internal, and external grassroots organizing
 - Develop Advanced Campaign Management curriculum and trainings
 - Develop strategic organizing plans and training programs for local unions combining internal capacity building, legislative advocacy, and electoral organizing
 - Developed and/or trained in over 75 multi-day grassroots organizing trainings in 28 states.
- 2000-present: *Community/Labor Campaign and Strategic Consulting*
- *SEIU International COPE Manual and Training Program – January 2006-present* (Developed concept and co-wrote 150 page training manual, training curriculum, program assessment tools, and sample strategic and fundraising planning materials for internal COPE fundraising and capacity building program for the International Political Program)
 - *Alliance for a Better California Campaign Training—August 2005* (Developed Advanced Campaign training for field staff deployed in targeted counties to run labor-community field operations to defeat three ballot propositions)

- *Iowa Better Jobs Better Care campaign—January 2005* (Strategic planning facilitator and consultant for two day strategic power analysis and planning for campaign to secure health care for low wage direct health care givers; facilitated one day national strategy meeting.)
- *SEIU Heroes Program—January-September 2004* (Lead trainer and curriculum developer for SEIU heroes program in conjunction with Wellstone Action!)
- *AFL-CIO Leadership Institute—2003/2004* (steering and planning committee; instructor of power and strategic analysis at 3 day institute at George Meany Center for national state federation and central labor council leaders)
- *Union Cities Leadership Training--2003* (2 day training as part of a national AFL-CIO effort to target key Central Labor Councils to develop leadership and strategic planning skills: community power analysis; leadership development -- taught Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth central labor councils)
- *Milwaukee Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods--2003* (taught community power analysis tool and facilitated 1 day power analysis for Park East Community Benefit Agreement campaign)
- *AFL-CIO Labor Leadership curriculum steering committee—2002/2003* (part of national steering committee advising on leadership development curriculum for target key Central Labor Councils)
- *HERE Canal Park hotel organizing campaign--2001* (consulted on development of strategic plan and community strategies to organize 5 downtown hotels)
- *ME International strike/lockout—2000/2001* (consulted on community strategies to support and leverage power for striking/locked-out workers)

1999-2004: *Co-Coordinator, Community Labor/Religion Network* (Duluth)

- Coalition of 12 churches, 10 labor unions, and 3 community groups working for economic justice and worker rights -- includes direct action, education, and worker organizing campaign support.

1994-2000: *Organizer and Union Representative, AFSCME Council 96*

- New member organizing: 8 campaigns, all won, representing nearly 300 workers
- 1999 St. Louis contract campaign (led year-long contract campaign to internally organize 1100 county workers for contract campaign)

- numerous internal organizing campaigns, organizing members for political and issue campaigns

1999-2002: *Director, EJ Project (Economic Justice Youth Theater Project), Building, Women Economic Justice Project*

- Lead for a community based theater project with high school actors discussing economic justice and economic disparity issues

1998-2001: *Organizer; Spokesperson, Citizen's Living Wage Coalition, St. Louis County*

- Strategist, spokesperson for a diverse labor, religious, low-income and community coalition formed to leverage living wage jobs through SLC service contract; co-chair of SLC Living Wage Task Force

1996-2000: *Spokesperson; Co-Coordinator, Duluth Coalition for a Living Wage*

- Lead strategist, organizer, and spokesperson for a 56 member-group coalition that successfully passed Minnesota's first living wage ordinance and the second ordinance in the nation to require living wage standards for economic development subsidies
- 1997-99: Commissioner, Corporate Subsidy Reform Commission

1992-1993: *Citizen Lobbyist and Legislative Liaison, Citizen's Reform Network*

- Spokesperson and lead organizer for progressive group advocating comprehensive campaign finance reform (successfully passed 1993 Minnesota law)

Political Organizing and Leadership Experience

- 2006
 - Lead Consultant, Mark Ritchie for Secretary of State (won)
 - GOTV Director for Northern MN, America Votes (400+ election day workers)

- 2005
 - Consultant, Steve O’Neill for County Commissioner (won general)

- 2004
 - Ran coordinated GOTV program for Duluth area between ACT, Labor 2004, Young Voters Project (650 election day workers and the highest voter turnout in the nation)
 - Wrote campaign plan; chief strategist, Bill Hansen for State Representative (lost primary)
 - Strategy Consultant, Steve O’Neil for Commissioner (won primary and general)
 - Lead Wellstone Action trainer for SEIU Heroes program; senior instructor Wellstone Action for ACT trainings throughout United States

- 2003
 - Strategy Consultant, Johnson for City Council (won general)
 - Strategy Consultant, Gilbert for Mayor (lost primary)

- 2002
 - Political Director and Chief Strategist, Becky Lourey for Governor; directed state convention floor operation (narrowly lost endorsement)
 - Chief strategist and wrote field plan, Bill Hansen for State Representative (narrowly lost primary)
 - Directed Duluth office and coordinated Duluth and North Shore GOTV efforts for Wellstone/Mondale for Senate campaign (450 election day workers; lost overall state race)

- 2001
 - Lead strategist for three City Council races and one School Board election (won 2 of 4)
 - Strategy and Labor Consultant, Smoke Free Duluth referendum -- smoking ban (won)

- 2000
 - Lead strategist, Steve Miles for Senate; directed state convention floor operation (lost endorsement)
 - Campaign Manager, Sweeney for County Commissioner (won)

- 1999
 - Lead strategist and co-coordinator of a community-labor coalition to elect labor-endorsed candidates in 5 city council races and 5

- school board races (won 5 races to achieve pro-labor majorities in both bodies)
- Campaign strategist, Swapinski for State Representative (won primary; won general election)
- 1998
 - Political Director, Freeman for Governor; directed state convention floor operation (won endorsement, lost primary)
 - Campaign Manager, Kathy Lane for County Commissioner (won primary; lost general)
- 1997
 - Lead strategist and co-coordinator of a community-labor coalition to elect labor-endorsed candidates in 4 city council races and 4 school board races (won all 8)
- 1996
 - Campaign Manager, Peg Sweeney for County Commissioner (won primary and general - 1st women to ever hold the seat)
 - Statewide Field Consultant, Wellstone for Senate; Floor leader state convention (won)
 - DFL Coordinated Campaign, developed GOTV calling matrix for coordinated GOTV campaigns for 6 campaigns
- 1995
 - Campaign Manager, Bergson for Mayor (lost)
- 1993-4
 - Campaign Manager, Marty for Governor; ran campaign and directed state convention floor operation (won endorsement)
 - Field Director, Grant for State Representative (lost general)
- 1992
 - SD 61 Coordinator, Brown for President
- 1980
 - CD 2 Coordinator, Anderson for President

Other Organizing Experience

- Volunteer Organizer, Graduate Student organizing Committee, University of Minnesota (1988)
- Field Organizer, Washington Peace Center (1981)