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Resistance School Announces Second Semester After 175,000 Participate in First Four Trainings

Cambridge MA--Resistance School on Thursday announced the launch of a second semester after over 175,000 participate in the first four trainings. Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and New York State Assemblyman Michael Blake led Thursday evening's session on how to sustain the resistance long-term.

"If you want to sustain a movement, you have to have a conversation about what are our shared responsibilities," said Assemblyman Blake. Shared responsibilities require showing up repeatedly, and holding yourself and others who are part of the movement accountable, he said.

Assemblyman Blake emphasized the importance of "finding your why" to sustain momentum and energy to resist. He drew on his own experience as an assembly member from the South Bronx, one of the most diverse parts of America, where he has worked to bring about change for socially-disenfranchised communities.

As we translate the energy behind the current political climate into a movement, activists must remember, "we are not the first, nor will we be the last movement," he said, adding, "If you want to have true success, you have to understand that it's not just about marching one time."

After his remarks, Blake was joined by Meighan Stone, former President of the Malala Fund, in conversation about activism, advocacy, and coalition building. Blake and Stone talked about the hard work required to build movements across a diverse coalition of actors, and how to turn challenges and motivation into authentic service.

Wrapping up the first semester of Resistance School, Blake and Stone inspired participants to engage, while highlighting some of the difficult work it takes to have a real impact to turn enthusiasm into a movement.

Renowned historian and activist Timothy Patrick McCarthy led the first session of Resistance School on April 5; former Obama grassroots movement architect Sara El-Amine led the second session on April 12; organizing expert Marshall Ganz led the third session on April 20.

Resistance School was founded by progressive graduate students at Harvard, who wanted to find a way to contribute to the wave of new and renewed political activism in communities across the country. The curriculum for Resistance School is designed for teams to join trainings, held on Harvard's campus and live-streamed online to communities across the country.

Semester Two will build on the feedback of participants and provide more advanced skills-based training to individuals and communities who are at various stages of organizing.

Mission: Resistance School aims to deepen community-based organizing infrastructure nationwide to secure issue and electoral victories at the local, state, and national level and advance progressive values of fairness, equality, and inclusivity. Through high-quality training for both those new to organizing and those who want to deepen their skills, we strive to amplify communities' capacity to lead and make the sustained change they seek. We believe that the power of collective action can break through barriers that undermine the people's access to our democracy.

Recordings of each session are available for unlimited playback on our website (www.resistanceschool.com) and via Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/ResistSchool/>). Resistance School is a student-run initiative developed by students at Harvard University. It is not an official course or offering of Harvard University or any of its schools.

About Michael Blake: Michael Blake is Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee, and a member of the New York State Assembly where he has focused on economic justice, civil rights and criminal justice reform. Read his full bio [here](#).

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For more information visit Resistance School on www.resistanceschool.com, [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
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