

TESTIMONIALS FROM WASLI ALUMNI

“What can I say about the WASLI experience! Having the opportunity to meet so many progressive women, receive great coaching and instruction as well as having the opportunity for personal growth has been phenomenal! This is an experience from which every woman in leadership in the behavioral health field would benefit! I personally will never be the same!”

– Dierdre H. Pearson, LCSW, CSAC, Program Manager, Women’s Substance Abuse Services, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (2013 WASLI)

“I can honestly say that I have never been in a group of more powerful, driven and unique women. All of the Associates and Coaches brought such diversity to the process and were open and honest throughout the WASLI process. I was genuinely inspired and challenged by the individuals, the program and the coaches. Great, powerful and passionate leaders every one!”

– Becky Bey, Director of Programs and Agency Relations, The Center for Children and Families (2013 WASLI)

“As a result of my WASLI experience, I am a leader who models a purpose driven life with confidence and passion; is intentional in utilizing the 5 leadership practices; chooses excitement over fear; takes risks; dedicates time for visioning; knows what I know and shares it unapologetically; balances and takes time to celebrate.”

– Mary Elizabeth Heaney-Gárate, B.A., M.S.S.W., LCSW, Director of Family Residential Services, Renewal House (2013 WASLI)

“I had the best of coaches.... In her gentle way she made me aware of the person others see when they look at me. She made me realize it was ok to stop looking in the window and walk through the door and be counted. For this I will always be thankful for her guidance... All of the 2013 class associates and coaches alike have such special places in my life. I learned something from each of them. “

– Christine E. Reid, Women’s Treatment Coordinator, Arkansas DHS-Division of Behavioral Health Services (2013 WASLI)

“WASLI has been an amazing growth experience for me both personally and professionally. The self-examination, sharing, and activities designed to assist me in creating focused goals have been invaluable.”

– Michelle Beaudoin, MA, LMHC, CASAC, Director of Inpatient Services, St. Joseph’s Addiction “Treatment and Recovery Services (2013 WASLI)

“Besides the birth of my children, this has been the most amazing experience of my life! It happened at exactly the time I needed it to help me advance my career and revitalize my passion! All of the trainers were excellent and knowledgeable and my classmates are all so amazing!”

– Patricia Hartley, LCSW, CASAC, Associate Executive Director, The Pederson Krag Center (2013 WASLI)

“I am so blessed to have had the empowering opportunity to be a WASLI Associate and to meet so many visionary leaders from across the country. It has truly been a high point in my career and one that will have a lasting impression on my life, both professionally and personally.”

– Karen Pershing, MPH, CPS II, Executive Director, Metropolitan Drug Commission (2013 WASLI)

“You never forget the women you first meet during this type of experience...all made such an impact on me. I see them truly as leaders in the field and am so happy we were all in this together.”

– Lisa Cohen, M.A., Contract/Program Manager, Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (2013 WASLI)

“As a result of my WASLI experience, I am a leader who has more confidence to share my vision of the future with others and to advocate for change in settings where that change may not be popular, but is needed.”

– Christina MacFarlane, M.S.W., LCSW, LAC-T, Co-Occurring Program Supervisor, Area Mental Health Center (2013 WASLI)

“The WASLI training has been an empowering experience. The opportunity to connect with other women with the same passion and challenges, and learn how to become a better leader and advocate for women had been wonderful. I have learned so much more about myself and how I can use my individual strengths in my leadership role.”

– Cathy Worthem, MSW, LMSW, CCS, Program Manager, Arbor Circle (2013 WASLI)

“I am so very blessed to be in the company of such a talented, compassionate group of women - each one intent on bettering the lives of other women struggling with addiction. I feel like I have just been connected to a lifeline of sorts - filled with the unique gifts of the wise women of WASLI.”

– Lisa Workman, Lead Parent Mentor, Family Support Network (2013 WASLI)

“The WASLI experience has been filled with personal discoveries, affirmation and development as a leader. Going into WASLI I did not know what to expect and had a lot of anxiety around “why me?” There still may be the thought of “why me?” but the experience of personal discoveries, reflection, community of women, inspiring conversation and challenging thoughts was beyond any experience I have had to date and has renewed my passion and heart for who I am as a person and the difference I want to make in the lives of others.”

– Niki Stewart, M.A., LPC, LMFT, Associate Director, Behavioral Health Center for Women and Children, The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston (2011 WASLI)

“The WASLI experience has exceeded my expectations and has truly been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had personally and professionally. This experience will stick with me for a lifetime.”

– Kimberly Craig, B.S., LSAT, Vice President, Women’s & Children’s Programs, Center for Hope, Community Bridges, Inc.(2011 WASLI)

“My WASLI experience has truly been an invigorating and re-energizing one! The self-examining of my personal and professional values and goals has helped me tremendously in re-affirming what I want to accomplish in fulfilling my vision and mission for the work that I do for state government. With such an experience, I can firmly say, ‘The best is yet to come’.”

– Ruthie M. Dallas, B.A., C.M.A., State Planner Principal, MN Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (2011 WASLI)

“The Women’s Addiction Service Leadership Institute is by far the best training I have ever experienced and continue to experience. The trainers create a truly safe learning environment that honors the individuality of each participant and capitalizes on healthy connections. What a joy to be a part of the sisterhood of fierce and remarkable women and journey together to make the world a better place!”

– Maureen A. Keating, PCC-S, LICDC, M.ED, Director, Women and Family Services Community Health Center (2011 WASLI)

“Through WASLI, I was instantly connected to a network of colleagues that provide me with support, guidance, shared resources, expertise, and consultation to improve the lives of women and children in my community. Such a connection does not exist for me locally, so the value of this national network is profound. Each fellow is generous in sharing her experience and learning for the benefit of the entire group. WASLI also provided me with the opportunity for increased knowledge and self-awareness. The foundational training and ongoing connection to WASLI fellows and coaches supports my intentional development into a more effective practitioner and advocate for women’s recovery.”

– Lori Criss, M.S.W., LSW, Chief Operating Officer, Amethyst, Inc. (2011 WASLI)

“This experience has challenged me in such a way that I find it difficult putting it into words, but what I do know is that through this experience I have grown as leader, and woman. And others have reaped the benefits of my growth. JOY, JOY, JOY!!!”

– Iliana Ojeda-Rivera, M.ED, CADAC, LADC, Director of Clinical Services, Women’s Treatment Programs, Boston Public Health Commission Mom’s Project/MORE Program (2011 WASLI)

“I wasn’t sure what to expect when I went to the immersion training and I had no idea it would be so comprehensive. The training and the connections made were life changing for me. I left with a renewed sense of purpose and a greater (more positive) sense of myself.”

– Paige K. Prentice, M.M., CASAC, Vice President for Residential and Medical Operations, Horizon Health Services (2011 WASLI)

“I feel like I have a ‘wise woman’ sitting on my shoulder helping me to be accountable to my values, thinking and actions.”

– Susan Dargon-Hart, M.S.W., Director of Homelessness and HIV Prevention Institute for Health and Recovery (2009 WASLI)

“The Women’s Addiction Services Leadership Institute has been a fantastic experience. I have focused on the growth area of encourage the heart. I am amazed at the difference my growth in this area has had on my staff. We are growing as a team; this is a win-win situation. I am a leader with renewed joy and enthusiasm for my work.”

– Sandra (Sandy) Kelley, M.S.N., NP, Nurse Practitioner, SOS Supervisor, DOC Liaison, Hope Center Recovery Program for Women (2009 WASLI)

“The institute has changed my professional and personal life. I am now fully aware of my strengths and my challenges, and I am conscious about how I can affect and influence others with my leadership style.”

– Liliana Rivas, M.A., Program Director, Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse-Family Foundations Program (2009 WASLI)

“It has been an amazing experience participating in the Women’s Addiction Services Leadership Institute. I have learned many wonderful skills and met an exceptional group of women, whom I will stay in contact with for many years to come. I feel grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Institute...it has opened my eyes to great possibilities!”

– Becky King, LCSW, Substance Abuse Treatment Program Manager, Utah Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (2009 WASLI)

“The Women’s Addiction Services Leadership Institute experience has offered me just the right balance between concrete skill training, more nuanced development of insight, and individual coaching. I have learned the difference between leadership and management and I am more aware of how my leadership impacts the agency and the people I supervise. I have become a better leader as a result of this experience and I know I will continue to develop.”

– Rebecca Crowell, M.ED., Executive Director, Nexus Recovery Center (2009 WASLI)

“Taking part in the WASLI Institute has been a priceless experience that has provided me with innovative techniques, skills that continue to evolve, and an incomparable network of women throughout the United States who are exceptional leaders and who enrich and enhance my life. I hope to be able to share and give back the knowledge that has been so graciously given to me and in so doing, continue the legacy of the WASLI experience.”

– Denise Holden, Executive Director, RASE Project (2009 WASLI)

“One of the most enlightening, challenging, and transformational experiences I have had in this lifetime. Thank you.”

– Kristen Jiorle, M.B.A., Treatment Manager, Maine Office of Substance Abuse (2009 WASLI)