Namaste!

We are pleased to invite you to

AgileCoachCamp 2008

Pushing the Boundaries while Keeping Agile Simple

What's New? What's Missing? What's too Complex? What's Obsolete?

Washtenaw Community College
Ann Arbor, Michigan
May 30 - June 1, 2008

Why now?

The art of coaching teams toward excellence and productivity is tricky business. Daily we make recommendations in increasingly complex contexts... and too often, as coaches, we work in isolation from other coaches. This is our opportunity to share stories and practices and wrestle with the direction in which this discipline is going, or should go.

Growing a Community of Practice

AgileCoachCamp is about creating a network of practitioners who are striving to push the limits in guiding software development teams, while staying true to the values and principles at the core of the Agile movement. We've invited practitioners who, like you, are passionate about their work, active in the field and willing to share what they've learned.

Do you have a technique or practice worth sharing with your peers? Or an idea you'd like to test out with some leaders in the community? Are you facing challenges and want to get some perspective from other practitioners, or hear how they do things? If you feel you'd benefit from connecting with 80-100 ScrumMasters, XP Coaches, Trainers, Change Agents and Mentors to talk, draw, argue and explore ideas, then this conference is for you.

To learn more about the event, visit wiki.agilecoachcamp.org

What's the Agenda?

AgileCoachCamp is a practitioner-run conference for peer-to-peer learning and exploration. It's *your* conference, so there will be no agenda until you arrive! We will create it collaboratively. If you prefer a conference where you can sit and listen to expert lectures, this isn't it. As at BarCamp, so at AgileCoachCamp there are no speakers, only participants.

We use the Open Space meeting format, which means that you determine the topics and questions that you want to talk about. We'll create our agenda together on Saturday morning and people will then join the small group discussions that interest them. Open Space is very complimentary to Agile & Lean approaches, and actually shares some of the same principles. Open Space is all about self-organizing and empowered teams. Open Space will allow YOU and other participants to bring to the conference the issues and opportunities that are emerging for you in real time. For some of you this will also be a first opportunity to gain experience with Open Space, yet another effective tool for your toolkit, useful for cultivating communities of practice in your region.

You don't have to be an expert to propose a topic or ask a question at AgileCoachCamp. You are simply inviting people into a conversation with you - other people who are also passionate about your topic or question. These conversations can build knowledge, and often lead to future collaborations; Open Space is great for networking! It has the energy of a good coffee break, where people are free to come and go from conversations as they please, yet it has a structure that

helps you to know what conversations are happening so that you can join up with people interested in the same things as you.

What will the conference look like?

Friday Evening	Registrations and Introductions Lightning Talks and time for people to Unwind and Connect Optional Social Outing
Saturday Morning	Full Breakfast Opening the Space Creating the Agenda
Saturday All day	Break-out sessions
Saturday Evening	Social Outing
Sunday Morning	Full Breakfast More Break-out Sessions
Sunday afternoon	Closing the Space / Retrospective
Sunday, till evening (optional)	Time for participants to hang around, finish up conversations or start new ones

Friday evening is set aside for participants to connect with each other and build some food for thought. Those who wish to can participate in Lightning Talks to get the ideas flowing, where you'll have up to three minutes to share what's on your mind. We've found this to be a great way to prime the pump for Open Space the following day. You get a quick glimpse of what people are thinking, it's a great way to stimulate ideas. Your Lightning Talk can be based on your Position Paper or on any other idea or question you have. A space will also be provided for those who choose to simply relax with refreshments and reconnect with colleagues from near and far.

Saturday morning we'll start with Opening the Space, at which time we'll create our agenda, followed by participant-organized sessions till Sunday afternoon, at which time we'll officially Close the Space, though we hope people who don't have to leave early will hang around to continue discussions or even to begin or plan new collaborations they have cooked up!

Cost and registration

This conference is free and non-profit, run by volunteers. Attendance is open to all, though we are asking for Position Papers to encourage participants to be ready to contribute when they arrive. We'll provide all meals and snacks, accommodation discounts, conference t-shirts and other goodies.

To register, please send your Position Papers to proposals@agilecoachcamp.org. Note that registration is limited to 100 people!

We look forward to seeing you in beautiful Ann Arbor this spring!

Sincerely,
Your Conference Organizers.
info@agilecoachcamp.org

PS: Please help us promote this event by forwarding this email or blogging about it! Put a badge on your website, print out a poster or some cards, or post this invitation on your favourite mailing list. Volunteer help is also welcome.

And P.S: **Sponsorship:**

AgileCoachCamp is a community driven, non-profit conference. To make it happen we need support from organizations and individuals with an interest in fostering this community. One way to support the event is to sponsor something from the SponsorshipList. We do not have different levels of sponsorship, instead we have listed specific items that need sponsoring, on our collaborative workspace a.k.a. wiki. You will also find the email address there that lets you offer your help as sponsor. Note that sponsors' Agile practitioners are welcome to submit Position Papers & attend as participants.