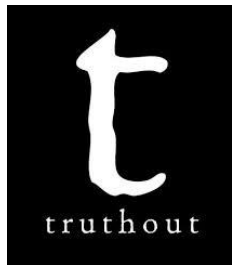


Career Paths Research – Warner Heston

As a web developer, I would like to work for an organization that promotes awareness of important issues that affect society and the world leading towards action enabling the evolution of the human race and responsibility for all life throughout this planet. There is a great need for dramatic changes around the world or life will not continue to exist. The quality and value of all life will continue to degrade into oblivion. There are many groups and organizations that carry the truth and have the real solutions for all to see. For the solutions to become reality, we all need to participate and work for them. I choose to be part of the solution. With the skills I develop in school, I can contribute in meaningful ways and, hopefully, see these changes begin before I die or graduate!

Most people in this country are not even aware of what is going on around them. Such people know nothing of the decisions being made and actions taken that are deciding their fate and that of their descendants. Many do not even seem to care and remain oblivious to the facts and their dwindling power to effect positive change. Mass media does not inform them but there are competent sources that do. My first set of choices are the independent news media that have inspired me to take this path. Three of the top websites that I have a great appreciation for are:

Independent News Companies



<http://www.truth-out.org>

Mission Statement

Truthout works to spark action by revealing systemic injustice and providing a platform for transformative ideas, through in-depth investigative reporting and critical analysis. With a powerful, independent voice, we will spur the revolution in consciousness and inspire the direct action that is necessary to save the planet and humanity.

The Organization

Truthout is a [501\(c\)3 nonprofit organization](#) dedicated to providing independent news and commentary on a daily basis. In order to remain free of bias and adhere to high editorial standards, we accept no advertising or corporate backing. Instead, we depend on our readers to support our work.

This is a professional publishing organization with an Editor-in-Chief, Publisher, Editorial Team, Production and Tech Team, Development Team, Board of Directors, and a Board of Advisers. Complete information can be found here: <http://www.truth-out.org/about-us> which includes links to their annual reports which are very informative.

As a web developer with an interest in this particular type of organization, the “Production and Tech Team” sounds like a possibility, but it does not appear to be such a large organization that working in-house with them would be a very easy position to acquire. The place where their website actually comes together, [CNP Integrations](#), does sound appealing as an alternative choice for a prospective employer thanks to their business model and philosophy and I will explore that later in this document.

TruthOut does not provide a physical address and currently have no job openings. Working for their web developers, [CNP Integrations](#), would be remote from their office.



<http://www.commondreams.org/>

“Independent, non-profit, advertising-free and 100% reader supported.”

Mission Statement

To inform. To inspire. To ignite change for the common good.

We are optimists. We believe real change is possible. But only if enough well-informed, well intentioned -- and just plain fed up and fired-up -- people demand it. We believe that together we can attain our common dreams.

We share our readers' progressive values of social justice, human rights, equality and peace. Common Dreams is committed to not only being your trusted news source, but to encouraging critical thinking and civic action on a diverse range of social, economic, and civil rights issues affecting individuals and their communities.

Common Dreams NewsCenter, often referred to simply as Common Dreams, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit U.S. based progressive news website. Common Dreams publishes news stories, editorials and a newswire of current breaking news. Common Dreams also re-publishes relevant content from numerous other sources such as the Associated Press and writers such as Robert Reich and the late Molly Ivins. The website also provides links to other relevant columnists, periodicals, radio outlets, news services, and websites.

More detailed information about their business structure is not available by way of their website. It does appear to be a relatively small, close-knit organization. I would need to make an inquiry to their Web Developer: webmaster@commondreams.org

Common Dreams
P.O. Box 443, Portland, ME 04112-0443

Mother Jones

<http://www.motherjones.com>

“Reader Supported Journalism”

Mother Jones is a nonprofit news organization that specializes in investigative, political, and social justice reporting. We currently have two main "platforms": an award-winning bimonthly national magazine (circulation 240,000), and a website featuring new, original reporting 24-7. (In the past we've had a radio show and TV specials; theme parks are in the conceptual stage.) Why should you read or support us? Because "smart, fearless journalism" keeps people informed—"informed" being pretty much indispensable to a democracy that actually works... more at their [about page](#).

The History of Mother Jones: [Mother Jones: The Woman](#)

Mary Harris Jones, this magazine's namesake, crafted a persona that made her a legend among working people. So why is so little about her remembered today?

They have a typical corporate structure, with a Board of Directors, that fits a large publishing company beginning with the Chief Executive Officer, Editors, Publisher, Creative Director, Managing Editor, Online Editor, Engagement Editor, Oatman Research Editor, Copy Editor, Political Blogger, Food and Ag Correspondent, Senior Reporters, Vicens Reporters, Assistant Editor, Senior Fellows, Whelan Fellows... etc. They do have an IT department: Ross Montgomery –with various positions within-- and a Human Resources Director: Emma Logan. A full description can be found at their [Masthead page](#).

Mother Jones
222 Sutter Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94108
Main Office: (415) 321-1700
Full contact information can be found at their [Contact page](#).

The fact that they do have an IT department opens the possibility of gaining an in-house position with their company. As with most of these types of companies, the most opportunity is for journalists. I feel sure that significant experience would be required.

There are more of these organizations I would make inquiries to. Here are some of them:

Democracy NOW!	http://www.democracynow.org/
The Nation	http://www.thenation.com/
OpEdNews	http://www.opednews.com/
CounterPunch	http://www.counterpunch.org/
Revolution News	http://revolution-news.com/
Al Jazeera America	http://america.aljazeera.com/
Storm Clouds Gathering	http://scgnews.com/
In These Times	http://inthesetimes.com/
Reader Supported News	http://readersupportednews.org/
truthdig	http://www.truthdig.com/
freepress	http://www.freepress.net/
Popular Resistance	https://www.popularresistance.org/
Consortium News	https://consortiumnews.com/about/

Most of these organizations are using outside services for web developers so when making inquiries to all of them, I would ask about who they use. Then I would inquire if they know of a company that specializes in servicing nonprofit, progressives that I might join as a beginner, apprentice, or intern. Though I really like the idea of becoming a journalist, to actually do it would require some years of experience before reaching a position with organizations such as these. If I am good at writing articles, most of these sites welcome submissions from anyone for consideration.

For much needed changes to actually happen activism is required on the part of the citizens of this country. You know, the *real* patriots. Recognize an important issue? Chances are there is already a group or organization involved in trying to make it right. Working in the company of such people might be a bit more exciting than a news room atmosphere. I will probably get more exercise because they will likely have me in the street joining the protest marches. They will have to have good medical benefits and some sort of bail insurance. In case you hadn't noticed, our government is becoming more fascist by the day and they love to beat the crap out of protesters, arrest them for assault with a deadly camera or terrorism or something. Having some of that rebellion flowing through my veins might keep me young if it does not kill me.

Activism Organizations



<https://www.aclu.org/>

“Because freedom can’t protect itself.”

The ACLU is our nation's guardian of liberty, working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.

These rights include:

- Your **First Amendment rights** - freedom of speech, association and assembly; freedom of the press, and freedom of religion.
- Your right to **equal protection under the law** - protection against unlawful discrimination.
- Your right to **due process** - fair treatment by the government whenever the loss of your liberty or property is at stake.
- Your right to **privacy** - freedom from unwarranted government intrusion into your personal and private affairs.

The ACLU also works to extend rights to segments of our population that have traditionally been denied their rights, including people of color; women; lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people; prisoners; and people with disabilities.

“If the rights of society's most vulnerable members are denied, everybody's rights are imperiled.”

SPECIAL HISTORY FEATURE

[The ACLU and the Bill of Rights »](#)

ACLU AT-A-GLANCE

- The ACLU's work is sustained by over 500,000 members and supporters who play an active role in defending freedom.
- Nearly 200 ACLU staff attorneys and thousands of volunteer attorneys handle countless civil liberties cases every year.
- Our legislative advocates are a constant presence on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures working on civil liberties issues.
- The ACLU has staffed offices in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately, their IT/Web Developer’s department is in New York City. There is not much chance that I will be willing to go live there... however it is possible with plenty of money for the expense of it all. Their [career page](#) seems to be geared towards contact by answering one of the listed job offers. An inquiry made from a link on their [contact page](#) may get the right person to contact. They have offices in every state and use a lot of attorneys, legal/political specialists, and lobbyists. The ACLU not only go after the big issues, but they will help small groups and individuals.

"So long as we have enough people in this country willing to fight for their rights, we'll be called a democracy." -- ACLU Founder Roger Baldwin



<http://Earthjustice.org/>

"Because the earth needs a good lawyer"
"We all have a right to a healthy environment"

EarthJustice is a nonprofit and does not charge any of its clients for its services. Funding for the organization comes from individual donations and foundations. It does not receive any funding from corporations or governments.

EarthJustice uses the power of law and the strength of partnership to protect people's health; to preserve magnificent places and wildlife; to advance clean energy; and to combat climate change. EarthJustice also partners with organizations from other regions, including Latin America, Russia, Japan, and China to promote the development of environmental law in their respective countries. Every year, EarthJustice submits a country-by-country report on Human Rights and the Environment to the United Nations. EarthJustice has been a critical player in a number of important, precedent-setting cases regarding environmental protection in the United States.

It all started in the fight to save a wild and beautiful mountain valley from becoming the world's largest ski resort. We won, fueled by the passion of our founding attorneys for preserving the wild—a goal that's as strong today as it was then.

Today's environmental challenges are greater than ever. But we live in a country of strong environmental laws—and EarthJustice holds those who break these laws accountable for their actions. As the nation's original and largest nonprofit environmental law organization, we leverage our expertise and commitment to fight for justice and create lasting change.

We bring cases with the biggest impact, setting precedents for generations to come. Our decades of success are thanks to strong partnerships with many hundreds of organizations and hundreds of thousands of passionate supporters. Of course, winning a case is only part of the battle. Our litigation is strengthened by policy and communications teams working with decision-makers in D.C. and within the court of public opinion to sustain our legal victories. *From the [About page](#)*

They have offices in San Francisco, CA (main office), Tallahassee, FL, Honolulu, HI, New York, NY, Bozeman, MT, Seattle, WA, Washington, D.C., Denver, CO, and Philadelphia, PA.. The IT/Web Development department is in San Francisco, CA.

A good place to learn about EarthJustice involvement in issues of the day is their [Press Release Page](#). The link should go to the expanded page listing all press releases in chronological order. At this moment there are 3177 articles listed.

The environment is an especially critical issue right now even more so than most people seem to realize. It would be meaningful work to support this organization. Living in San Francisco might be pretty nice. There is a large, progressive community there I would like to be part of. Like New York City, I would need them to pay enough to live well there. I may have said somewhere that the money is not important in comparison to "life." Having all the best of everything is not my goal, but I would like to avoid poverty if possible. I have had plenty of that most of my life.



<http://www.commoncause.org>

Common Cause is the original citizens' lobby, founded in 1970 by John Gardner, and still battling for open, honest and accountable government in Washington, D.C. and in all 50 states.

We have 400,000 members and supporters, offices in 35 states and activists everywhere. Please explore our site, learn about our work and join our community. This is our democracy, it's up to all of us to make it work. Common Cause is the original. Our founding in 1970 sparked a democracy reform movement that continues to grow.

We make a difference. Common Cause:

- Drove the movement that won voting rights for 18-year-olds
- Led campaigns that secured and now work to defend and strengthen laws limiting the influence of money in politics.
- Successfully lobbied for state and local laws permitting public financing of political campaigns to offset the impact of large, special interest contributions.
- Helped exposed ethical breaches that drove two House Speakers and a majority leader from office; our lobbying ultimately led the House of Representatives to create an independent ethics oversight agency.
- Wrote the landmark California law putting citizens in charge of drawing congressional and state legislative districts, ending partisan gerrymandering.
- Spearheaded a reform coalition that exposed the secret workings of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a corporate cabal that has quietly engineered the passage of hundreds of state laws putting private profit ahead of the public interest; thanks to that campaign, more than 50 major companies have abandoned ALEC.

With offices in 35 states and members in all 50, Common Cause is a true citizen's lobby.

[Locations Map](#) I am not sure if they actually their IT/Web Developers Department so I would have to make an inquiry. They are so large, I would guess that they do.

Patricia Bennett, Director of Human Resources: pbennett@commoncause.org

There are many others I would make inquiries to:

Campaign for America's Future: <http://ourfuture.org>

Freedom House: <https://freedomhouse.org>

Families for Justice as Healing: <http://justiceashealing.org>

The Electronic Frontier Foundation: <https://www.eff.org>

Sunlight Foundation: <http://sunlightfoundation.com>

The Government Accountability Project: <http://www.whistleblower.org/>

National People's Action: <http://npa-us.org>

Climate Reality Project: <http://climaterealityproject.org>

National Resources Defense Council: <http://www.nrdc.org>

Public Citizen: <https://www.citizen.org>

Friends of the Earth: <http://www.foe.org>

USAction: <http://usaction.org>

Popular Resistance: <https://www.popularresistance.org>

There are many more to investigate. Go to: <http://www.startguide.org/orgs/orgs00.html>

Web Developer Companies

Before I can qualify for any of the above places I aspire to, I will need to build a foundation of experience by working with other web developers. I will be able to do this to some degree while I complete my education or immediately after. Time for school work is something I already have an issue with so it could be pretty tough beginning while in school, but not out of the realm of possibility. I will need to work locally and my preference for the good causes will likely have to be put on hold during that time. The following companies are local. Hopefully, the “fools at the helm” will not destroy the world before I get my chance to join the “good fight.” Most job openings for web developers require at least a bachelor’s degree. It is my hope that I will be able to finance my way through that much education.



<http://www.beminteractive.com>

“A Leader in Design, Application & E-commerce
Development and Web Marketing”

BEM’s commitment to innovation, strategic solutions and client satisfaction has allowed us to accumulate several hundred customers of varying sizes and industry sectors. Our drive to deliver results with efficiency, affordability and integrity has led to our clients’ success, and therefore to our own success. Our experience is broad and includes retail, manufacturing, wholesale, distribution, government, service, non-profit and education sectors.

As we embark on the next chapter in BEM’s story, we join two synergistic companies into one comprehensive team. The collective BEM staff have backgrounds in design, e-commerce, programming, marketing, project management, business analysis and of course, a keen attention to detail and customer service. Combine that with Trone’s expertise in branding, strategy and both traditional as well as new media and you have an unstoppable group of talented individuals. In other words, $1 + 1 = 3$.

BEM, A Trone Brand Energy Company is the leading provider in the Southeast for branding, marketing and technology solutions. Put our team to the test. We’ll meet your expectations, every time.

1823 Eastchester Drive, Suite C, High Point, NC 27265 | Phone: (336) 421-2168

They appear to have several locations related to specific aspects of their work.

Local Services: Greensboro Web Design, Greensboro E-commerce Development, Greensboro Web Marketing, Greensboro SEO Services, Winston Salem Web Design, Winston Salem E-commerce Development, Winston Salem Web Marketing, Winston Salem SEO Services

Their [Employment Page](#) offers the possibility of positions in all aspects of the work so it looks like a very possibility for someone right out of school. There is a contact form at this page. I would need to inquire as to whether they will accept someone fresh out of school. They certainly seem large enough that they might be inclined to do something like that.



<http://onemarketingresource.com>

“We guarantee to use the right tools to meet your marketing objectives so you can grow your business.”

At ONE Marketing Resource, we guarantee to use the right tools to meet your marketing objectives, NOT sell you something based on limited resources.

What does that mean?

It means that we aren't just web designers. We aren't just graphic designers. We aren't just social media experts. We aren't just a promotional products company. We aren't just a printing company. We aren't just a corporate apparel company. We aren't just a branding company. We aren't just an inbound marketing company. Are you still reading?

Instead, we are all of these things. We are similar to a general contractor / home builder. A contractor knows about plumbing, framing, electrical, interior design, etc. The contractor can then help determine your needs and wants and use the right mix of all of the above elements to create the house you want and most importantly, the house you need.

We help businesses with:

Define Strengths

Each business has marketing strengths. We help businesses tap into those strengths and communicate better with their clients and prospects.

Story Telling / Branding

Each business has a story to tell. We help businesses tell their story in a way that is memorable to customers and prospects.

Build Community

Each business has a community. We help businesses strengthen and foster closer relationships with this community. A strong community will help build a firm foundation for a business.

Social Web Interconnection

Achieving success online is difficult to do if you don't fully understand SEO, social media, blogging, a little CSS and HTML coding and a few other techno jargon. We speak the language of the web and understand how all these items help your website show up in rankings AND convert suspects into prospects.

Web Presence

A beautiful, well thought out website will convert more visitors. We can turn your informational website into a lead generating machine. We can also help your website “DO” certain tasks that are currently repetitive or manual tasks. Contact us about your web needs.

205 South Stratford Rd., Suite 203i, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

As is the case with many of these companies They do not have a “jobs” or “employment” page though some sound like they could use people. This company has a lot of projects going on and are growing so they would be a likely candidate for a job inquiry. The [Contact Page](#) is geared towards sales and client services so it would be an easy matter to make an inquiry about employment.



<http://www.beacontechnologies.com>

First and foremost, Beacon brings an incredible amount of technical and marketing experience to its customers. Experts with all types of certifications, of all ages, with experience in small and large companies come together to do one thing – provide smart web solutions and value to Beacon’s clients. However, this passion gets turbo-charged in a work environment that also values open ideas from employees, community service, family (flex time), profit sharing, company-sponsored events, while fostering teamwork and a unique culture that everyone contributes to.

The personality and culture of the company, as well as the depth and breadth of knowledge of our team, is most evident in the Beacon Blog.

Since 1998, Beacon has helped over 600 organizations in 42 U.S. States and 5 countries fully leverage web technology, to grow, showcase, and connect their businesses. With 38 current employees, the Beacon staff has written over 800 blog posts, sharing their knowledge and experience as thought leaders in the industry.

Web Development

32 Colleges & Universities have engaged Beacon for web design, development, marketing, and hosting solutions. As the top Cascade Server development partner to Hannon Hill, the firm has delivered 93+ Cascade Server websites. Beacon has also produced 100+ ecommerce websites, generating \$200M+ in revenue.

Digital Marketing

As one of the longest standing Google Analytics Certified Partners in the U.S., Beacon has installed and set up GA on over 350 websites. For its clients, Beacon's Digital Marketing Team has managed \$200M+ in Google Ad spend budget, monitors over 30,000 SEO keywords, and produced over 8,000 social media content pieces that reaches over 50K social media users across a variety of industries.

Hosting

Beacon manages or hosts 500+ website domains, including development, test & production sites, and 1000+ email accounts for its customers, complete with full technical support and Barracuda spam filtering, which blocks ~6 million messages per year.

Beacon Technologies, Inc., 164 Thatcher Rd., Greensboro, NC 27409

This company has a [Careers Page](#) with some job listings on them. They are certainly large enough to be an excellent contact when nearing the end of my education.

There are more companies in the area and it will take some additional research to locate the right ones to contact. Once I have an Associate’s degree, I will be looking for something to start out in at least on a part time basis. Depending on the finances, it may be that I will want to work for a year while taking some transitional classes. Just how all that will work out remains to be seen.

As far as researching what I need to become a web developer is concerned, I am only at the very beginning of this challenge. It is becoming more and more of a challenge as I progress. I will discover what I need to know as I progress through the classes. All of the job openings so far require a BA so I will attempt to pursue one. A general consensus among experts giving advice is that you will need an entry level position with a company where you can gain plenty of on the job experience so that will be my goal as soon as I am able.