

Youth Visions

Annual Conference of NAACHHS (North American Association of Community Hebrew High Schools)

The North American Association of Community Hebrew High Schools (NAACHHS) held its sixth Annual Conference July 12-15, 2009 at the Pearlstone Retreat and Conference Center in Reisterstown, MD. Thirty-one professionals gathered together for cooperative professional learning under the theme Maximizing Your School's Potential. Roz Cooper represented Charlotte's Hebrew High.

Participants learned and strategized about new ideas to enrich their schools, and to maximize all of their resources (human, financial and programmatic). Highlights included:

* An intensive study with Bill Cohen (Head of School of Kadima Hebrew Academy and formerly a NAACHHS member as the Head of School of the Los Angeles Hebrew High School) of four frames or lenses through which to understand and address common challenges as developed by educational theorists Lee Bolman and Terrence Deal. Exploring the structural, human resource, political and symbolic frames and learning how to use them effectively provided participants with important tools.

* Several sessions with JESNA's Dr. Shira Rosenblatt (Associate Director of the Berman Center) who shared strategies for effectively using evaluation techniques and the data they elicit.

* A workshop on creative Jewish prayer facilitated by musician/educator Chana Rothman (www.chanarothman.com).

* A discussion of ways to maximize teen engagement with Israel with Ilan Wagner, North American Director of MAKOM- the Israel Engagement Network and Senior Representative of the Department of Education of the Jewish Agency

for Israel in North America.

* An in-depth exploration of two soon-to-be launched models of Community Hebrew High Schools.

* "Speed Sharing" during which participants shared their strategies for recruiting and retaining students.

* Peer facilitated sessions focusing on the recruitment, supervision and retention of faculty, e-newsletters as communication tools, time management, and integrating experiential education into classrooms.

* NAACHHS' annual business meeting, during which members brainstormed about new and exciting opportunities NAACHHS can pursue in these financially challenging times.

* A fire circle and singing by the campfire – both firsts for NAACHHS.

Penina Hoffnung, NAACHHS' President commented: "This annual gathering has proven to be a vital and effective vehicle for professionals to gain and share knowledge that will help our schools create transformative and relevant Jewish educational experiences in the most efficient manner possible."

NAACHHS is the umbrella organization for the field of community-based supplementary Jewish secondary education. NAACHHS creates, supports, exchanges and disseminates innovative programs, curricula, best practices and resources to enrich Jewish education in member schools, and provides professional development opportunities for directors of member schools. For additional information about NAACHHS, please contact Devorah Silverman, Director of NAACHHS at dsilverman@jesna.org. ☆

Tair Giudice Receives Project InCiTE Fellowship

One of our own, Post-Confirmation teacher Tair Giudice, has recently been awarded the prestigious Project InCiTE Fellowship, a two-year project that culminates in spring 2010. A joint project of the New Center for Collaborative Leadership (a department of BJENY/SAJES), the iCenter and MAKOM, project InCiTe will teach a cohort of youth professionals to become part of the next generation of innovating Jewish educators. The fellows will be charged with the task of creating and implementing relevant new models of youth engagement in the area of Israel education and Jewish peoplehood. Through this fellowship, Tair will have the opportunity to travel to the Opening Retreat in New York (August 23-26) and a nine-day seminar in Israel, next December.

In May of 2010 Tair will be expected to present to the Charlotte community her finalized project, which will attract and engage more of our Charlotte teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences.

Tair will work closely with Roz Cooper, Director of Hebrew High, who will serve as Tair's direct supervisor and sponsor. Tair will also be assigned to an outside expert in Israel education, whose role will be to mentor and guide Tair through the creative and implementation process. On May 2010 Tair will be expected to present her finalized project to the community.

Tair is the only fellow accepted to this project outside of the New York – Chicago area and we wish her the very best of luck. ☆

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Warmest Regards,

Ryan Poterack, CFP®

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