



## Gratz Insider, March 2017 - Story Continuation

[To return to the newsletter, close this page.]

### Gratz News in Brief

#### Professor Josh Gutoff's Exciting Week

On February 23, Professor Gutoff, director of the Gratz master's program in Jewish education, gave a talk at Brown University for the [Creative Scholars Project](#). Professor Gutoff's presentation was entitled "Creative Empathy: Ethical Thinking as an Imaginative Act." During his discussion, he sought to answer an intriguing question: "Can we approach morality with the same sense of creativity that artists and designers bring to their work?"

One week later, Professor Gutoff received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from The Jewish Theological Seminary. He and 54 other members of the Rabbinical Assembly were [honored](#) for having "served the Jewish community with distinction for 25 years or more." The honorees came from all over the United States, as well as from Canada, Israel and Switzerland. They included congregational rabbis, Jewish communal professionals, educators and chaplains.

Congratulations, Professor Gutoff!

#### Gratz Early Childhood Education Courses Approved for PA Director Credential

The [Pennsylvania Keys to Professional Development](#) is an accreditation system aimed at improving the quality of professionals working in early childhood and school-age programs. Under this system, programs are evaluated on a one-to-four star scale, with each star correlating to particular professional development benchmarks.

In order for an early childhood center to earn more than a two-star rating, at least one member of the center's staff must have earned the Pennsylvania Director's Credential. Gratz has recently been approved to offer coursework that would qualify students for this important credential. After taking the three approved Gratz courses - one in program administration for young children, one in program supervision for young children and one on creating a business plan for an early childhood center - students can apply for their Pennsylvania Director's Credential certificate.

#### Revitalizing the Gratz Alumni Association

Gratz high school and College alumni comprise an enormous network of successful people working in different professions across the country and around the world. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have access

to this network to learn about different opportunities that could help support your personal and professional goals?

Moving somewhere? Maybe there's a Gratz alum who lives in the area who could help you get settled - and just maybe it's that person you used to study with online. Looking for a job or changing careers? Maybe there's a former classmate who could give you some advice or help you get started.

Unfortunately, in recent years, this incredible resource has been largely untapped - but we are working to change that. We are looking forward to connecting alumni and sharing their stories through our website, social media pages and an alumni newsletter. We also plan on organizing events and offering perks, such as reduced rates on Gratz programs.

In order to make this happen, we need you to help us keep our records up-to-date. If you're a Gratz alum from the high school or College, please complete our brief [alumni update form](#). We also encourage you to spread the word to all your friends and family members who attended Gratz.

We look forward to hearing from you!