

American Jewish University Press Release – September 5, 2018

American Jewish University announced that it has filled the inaugural cohort for its new Master of Arts in Education in Early Childhood Education. Full accreditation from the WSCUC was received over the summer. The Master of Arts in Education in Early Childhood Education is offered by AJU's Graduate Center for Jewish Education. This new degree program grew out of the realized need for highly qualified early childhood faculty in the Jewish community.

"The State of California requires very little to earn a permit to teach young children. Our heritage not only teaches that our youngest children are important, it also teaches us to be leaders and to advocate for those who don't always have a voice. Our M.A. program will nurture teachers and directors so that they become leaders in Jewish education and discover that their role is much more than just creating lesson plans and balancing a budget," explains Dr. Tamar Andrews, director of the Master of Arts in Education in Early Childhood Education.

"There is currently no other Master's degree program in Southern California working to elevate the level of early childhood educators teaching our youngest Jewish students," said Rachel Lerner, Dean of the Graduate Center for Jewish Education. We came to realize that there was a gap in Jewish education and a need for training for early childhood educators, especially for developing excellent teachers into effective leaders and advocates for high quality environments in Jewish preschool settings." By earning a Master's degree, the early childhood educator will gain the knowledge and skills to elevate their contribution as educators in Jewish settings.

Using a cohort-based model, students come together to grow as educators. The program is designed for working professionals. The first cohort of graduate students begins classes this fall. To learn more, visit us online at www.aju.edu/education. The Graduate Center for Jewish Education of American Jewish University prepares educators to create and articulate a compelling vision for Jewish education and apply the knowledge, skills, creativity and leadership needed to bring that vision to life.

Our alumni provide leadership and vision in every sector of Jewish education across the denominational spectrum. For more information about AJU, visit us online at www.aju.edu