

Rabbi Erin Hirsh

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SUMMARY of QUALIFICATIONS

As a rabbi and Jewish educator with executive leadership skills and experience, I successfully design and direct innovative and impactful programs and projects that strategically align human and material resources to achieve transformative and desired outcomes.

RABBINIC & EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

GRATZ COLLEGE, Melrose Park, PA 2012 - 2018

Interim President, February 2017 – December 2018

A department directorship position at Gratz College preceded and succeeded this position and is described subsequently.

Leadership

- Guided College during search for permanent president
- Represented the College in Jewish and secular contexts

Finance

- Designed and implemented new budgeting process
- Managed a \$4,000,000+ budget
- Secured over \$600,000 in critical financing

Institutional Advancement

- Secured contributions from alumni and major donors
- Identified and activated dormant endowments
- Designed outreach strategy to rapidly-diversifying stakeholders
- Commissioned comprehensive marketing and branding program

Administration

- Supported College's ongoing assessment work, including Middle State accreditation
- Direct supervision of all administrative and operational aspects of the College

Founding Director, Gratz Advance, 2015 – 2018

- Designed and launched three cutting-edge, replicable programs for children in supplementary school programs
- Designed and launched three distinctive, strategic programs and resources to support Jewish teen engagement
- Revamped two historic Jewish teen programs by reimagining programmatic aspects and designing new marketing
- Cultivated individual donors and funders; Secured and manage all grants; Managed budget of \$400,000+
- Built and maintained partnerships with educational organizations in Philadelphia, North America and Israel
- Increased institutional reach, visibility and impact in entire field of Jewish education
- Created feeder programs for College's professional degree programs and teen programs

Founding Director, NEXT: Professional Learning for Supplementary School Teachers, 2012 – 2015

- Designed and launched innovative professional development program featuring: online multi-session courses, in-person workshops, mentorships, professional assessment tools and a school assessment tool
- Strategically utilize technology and online learning to support educators throughout North America and Israel
- Served 1500+ supplementary school educators in 32 states and two Canadian provinces
- Presented at conferences, lead professional development workshops, teach courses online and in-person
- Hire, train and supervise all staff and faculty
- Conducted ongoing program assessment and evaluation

Founding Partner, JEWEL: Jewish Educational Wisdom, Experience & Leadership, 2012 – present

- Organizational consulting, professional coaching
- Content development, creative programs, writing & editing curricula

Founding Director, Office of Rabbinic Career Development, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, 2016 – 2017

JEWISH RECONSTRUCTIONIST FEDERATION, Jenkintown, PA, 2006 – 2012

Director of Education

- Provided leadership and consultative support for education programs in 100+ congregations
- Educated congregational school volunteers and employees about all aspects of effective educational programs
- Facilitated professional development workshops, conference calls, webinars
- Coached and mentored board members and directors of 100+ congregational schools
- Created, secured funding for, and implemented a national program for Jewish teens
- Hired, trained and supervised program faculty and staff
- Directed multiple annual teen retreats at an overnight camp
- Wrote or edited curricula for children, teens, adults

Director of Convention

A five day convention with 500 participants from throughout North America, Israel and Europe

- Designed forty workshops and classes in ten primary areas of interest
- Recruited multiple influential Jewish communal leaders to present and participate
- Built and successfully managed a \$250,000 budget
- Supported an ambitious fundraising campaign
- Developed and supervised a comprehensive communications plan
- Supervised all administrative systems and operational logistics

DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOLS

- Education Director, Congregation Mishkan Shalom, Philadelphia, PA 1999 – 2008
- Co-Director, Teen Institute of Northwest Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 2005 – 2007
- Founding principal, Kehilat HaNahar: The Little Shul by the River, New Hope, PA 1997 – 1999

EDUCATION

Gratz College, Melrose Park, PA. Master of Arts in Jewish Education, 2016

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA. Master of Hebrew Letters and Rabbinic ordination, 2000

- Coursework in Jewish content, leadership, education, non-profit management and community organizing

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY. Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, 1994

Continuing Education:

Non-Profit Center, La Salle University School of Business, Philadelphia, PA, 2010 – present

- Professional development courses in non-profit governance, communication and fundraising

Interfaith Philadelphia, Civil Conversations Facilitation, October 2018

SELECT VOLUNTEER WORK

Brazo Foundation Board of Governors, Mariana Bracetti Academy, a public charter school in Philadelphia, PA

JQuest Evaluation Committee, JQuest B'Yachad, Elkins Park, PA

Achievement Gap Committee, Cheltenham School District, Cheltenham, PA

MAJOR PRIZES & HONORS

Finalist, **Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education**, Covenant Foundation, 2016, 2017 & 2018

First recipient, eponymous **Rabbi Erin Hirsh Award for Excellence in Jewish Education**. Reconstructionist Educators of North America, 2012