



Gratz Insider, April 2013 - Story Continuation

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Going Back to School with Help from Gratz College and Legacy Heritage Fund

Gratz College and Legacy Heritage Fund have created fourteen fellowships: seven for the Gratz master's in Jewish Education and seven for the Gratz master's in Jewish Communal Service. The Legacy Heritage Midcareer Fellowship makes these degrees more accessible to deserving candidates through a combination of significantly reduced tuition and flexible scheduling.

For current and aspiring Jewish organizational administrators, Hillel staffers, youth group directors, day and supplementary school educators and other Jewish professionals, the Gratz master's programs in Jewish Education and Jewish Communal Service offer the promise of greater competency, increased job mobility and more diversified skills. These are enviable benefits in a world where harried professionals are being asked to shoulder diverse responsibilities, while their employers cut back on skills training and professional development.

So that more qualified candidates can benefit from a graduate education, the Legacy Heritage Midcareer Fellowship removes some of the obstacles that many students face. First, Legacy Heritage Midcareer Fellows receive a 45% reduction in tuition, which can allow individuals "who otherwise could not afford the cost of a graduate degree to develop their talents and contribute to the Jewish community," says Dr. Ruth Sandberg, the Leonard and Ethel Landau Professor of Rabbinics at Gratz College.

Second, the flexibility of the program is conducive to the hectic lives of working students, who are trying to juggle multiple responsibilities. Legacy Heritage Midcareer Fellows have three years to complete their degrees, meaning they can reduce their per-semester course load by attending school part-time. As a longtime supporter of distance learning, Gratz College also offers students the opportunity to take many of their courses online. The master's in Jewish Education is one of only two such

programs in the whole country that can be completed entirely online. The master's in Jewish Communal Service combines online and on-campus courses, with the latter scheduled at times suited to working professionals. Finally, while both master's programs require internships, working students can, in many cases, arrange to complete their internships at their current places of employment.

“The Legacy Heritage Midcareer Fellowship is an acknowledgement of the ‘new student’ in the Jewish community as one who requires greater flexibility and for whom old-time models of education no longer work. Many of these people are expected to be mid-career students who are balancing work, school and family,” says Debbie Aron, the Gratz advisor of Jewish Communal Service and Nonprofit Management.

As a pluralistic institution, Gratz also offers flexibility in another form. Students from different branches within Judaism are welcome to participate in both the master's in Jewish Education and the master's in Jewish Communal Service. In Gratz classes, concepts are discussed and applied across the spectrum of various Jewish movements.

“The Gratz College family is thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with Legacy Heritage Fund to establish the Legacy Heritage Midcareer Fellowship,” says Gratz president Joy Goldstein. “The cohort that will be selected will be comprised of Jewish educators committed to nurturing Jewish identity in their students and nonprofit leaders dedicated to improving the institutions and communities in which they work. I am confident that the Gratz College / Legacy Heritage Midcareer Fellowship will yield long-lasting and significant impact in the Jewish community.”

Gratz College is currently accepting applications for Legacy Heritage Midcareer Fellows in Jewish Education and Jewish Communal Service for the fall semester. Students who select Jewish Communal Service are required to take the Nonprofit Management track, which combines a Jewish knowledge base with skills such as fundraising, marketing and fiscal management. Applications for the Legacy Heritage Midcareer Fellowship are due on June 30th. For more information, visit www.LegacyMidcareerFellow.com or contact Dodi Klimoff at 215-635-7300, ex. 140 or dklimoff@gratz.edu.