



המכללה העברית

HEBREW COLLEGE

For Immediate Release

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With New Strategic Direction, Hebrew College Hires Educational Leaders Dr. Susie Tanchel and Rabbi Jeffrey Summit

May 28, 2019 (Newton Centre, MA) – Hebrew College President, Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, is thrilled to announce that two dynamic and prominent Jewish educators, Dr. Susie Tanchel and Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey Summit, will be joining the College's leadership team. These appointments represent the first of several steps toward implementing a new strategic direction for Hebrew College, bringing its vital, pluralistic vision for Jewish life into the world, amplifying and enhancing its impact in the community, and providing a sustainable operational model for the future.

"It is a joy and an honor to welcome Susie Tanchel and Jeff Summit to Hebrew College," commented Anisfeld. "They are inspiring, compassionate leaders and educators, and they bring a tremendous wealth of experience, knowledge, passion and creativity to this work. I feel privileged to partner with them as we implement the College's new strategic vision, broadening and deepening our impact in Boston and around the country, and nurturing vibrant Jewish communities that are both learned and loving, committed and creative, reflective and engaged with the wider world."

Both Tanchel and Summit have extensive experience in pluralistic Jewish educational settings, and are highly regarded as thought leaders and institution builders in the local and national Jewish communities.

As the College implements its new strategic vision, it will be centering its efforts on a holistic and synergistic approach to community and graduate education. As part of that focus, Tanchel will serve as Vice President for Community Education, helping to create a renewed vision for youth, adult, and interfaith learning in the Greater Boston area, as well as local and national professional development programs. Summit will serve as Director of a new Innovation Lab, providing seed grants, mentorship, and ongoing support for student and alumni projects drawing on the vision and values of Hebrew College, and serving the Boston community and beyond.

Tanchel will join Hebrew College in the summer of 2020, as she steps down from her position as Head of School at JCDS, Boston's Jewish Community Day School. During her 9 year tenure at JCDS, Tanchel has been an accomplished and deeply beloved leader, guiding the school to preeminence as a national model of excellence in pluralistic Jewish

education, and creatively embodying its abiding commitments to community, centrality of Hebrew language, and teaching the whole child. She was a recipient of the 2018 Covenant Award for Jewish Educators.

Tanchel commented: "I am so honored to join the talented faculty and staff at Hebrew College, as we build a bold, new vision for vibrant, engaged Jewish learning with the Greater Boston Jewish community."

Summit will join Hebrew College in the fall of 2019, after serving as the Neubauer Executive Director of Tufts Hillel for four decades. He consults for Hillel International and holds an appointment as research professor in the Department of Music and the Judaic Studies program at Tufts University. Under his leadership, Tufts Hillel thrived, becoming a national model for excellence in undergraduate programming and engagement, with a significant focus on social justice, moral and spiritual development, and personal and communal transformation.

Rabbi Jeff Summit commented, "It is so exciting to see the ways in which Hebrew College is working to transform Jewish communities in the 21st century and I'm thrilled to be a part of this mission."

In December, 2018, President Anisfeld assembled a [team](#) of lay and professional leaders to conduct a College-wide Strategic Planning process. Through a structured process of information gathering, detailed analysis, and reflection over the last six months, the group has formulated a set of recommendations that will guide the College moving forward, and the College will share more information in the coming months as implementation continues. The new strategic direction is centered on both internal and external partnership and collaboration, drawing on the College's distinctive strengths and enhancing communal impact through its commitments to deep Jewish literacy and creativity, relational learning, mentorship and reflective practice. The vision lays a strong foundation for fiscal responsibility, sustainability, and growth. Dr. Tanchel and Rabbi Dr. Summit will both serve in key leadership roles helping to implement the new strategy.

"Susie Tanchel and Jeff Summit have been leaders of their respective fields for their entire careers – beautiful examples of Greater Boston's role as a leading center of Jewish life. As a long-time partner for CJP, Hebrew College plays an important role in our Jewish educational landscape, and these two leaders will bring passion and experience, depth of knowledge, and innovative thinking," says Rabbi Marc Baker, President and CEO of CJP.

Hebrew College Board Chair, Andy Offit, added: "I thoroughly enjoy my partnership with Rabbi Anisfeld and the Board has great confidence in our President. She is building a strong and dynamic team, and attracts quality people who want to work with her to implement creative and meaningful Jewish education for the 21st century. This announcement is a testament to her visionary leadership and collaborative spirit."