

## THE MILLER CENTER OF HEBREW COLLEGE ANNOUNCES NEXT NATIONAL PHASE OF GROUNDBREAKING INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP WITH INTERFAITH AMERICA PARTNERSHIP AND LAUNCH OF ONLINE PLATFORM

**NEWTON CENTRE, MA (August 11, 2022)** - [The Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership of Hebrew College](#) today announced a new phase of their groundbreaking interfaith fellowship program, Building Interfaith Leadership Initiative (BILI), recently renamed the **BILI Launchpad Fellowship**, which first launched in 2017. The program provides young leaders with the skills and experience to build bridges across differences and address common challenges — an urgent societal need in these divided times. Joining as an official partner is [Interfaith America](#), a national leader in inspiring, equipping, and connecting individuals and institutions to unlock the potential of America's religious diversity. In addition to the fellowship, the Miller Center is also unveiling [BILI Online](#) this month, a new digital interreligious curriculum and resource bank for leadership development, based on the BILI fellowship.

“In this time of extreme polarization, there is an urgent need for cooperation across religious and cultural divides. BILI aims to raise up a new generation of leaders equipped to carry out this sacred work,” said Rabbi Or Rose, Founding Director of the Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership of Hebrew College. “Our new partnership with Interfaith America offers us the opportunity to develop a premier national program. Together, we can provide student leaders and their mentors with a high-quality learning experience and access to a growing network of passionate change agents.” Co-Director Rev. Tom Reid added, “The new, open-access, digital platform, will extend the reach of BILI beyond the bounds of the cohort and share our resources with others engaged in related interfaith educational efforts.”

Established in 2016, the Betty Ann Greenbaum Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership of Hebrew College provides current and future religious and ethical leaders with the knowledge and skills to serve in a religiously diverse society. While interreligious programming is growing on campuses throughout the United States, BILI is a unique national fellowship program providing students with the opportunity to engage with peers and mentors from other schools and non-profit organizations and to train with recognized experts—scholars, community organizers, artists, politicians, and clergy—in the theory and practice of interreligious leadership.

Together, the Miller Center and Interfaith America will welcome its first cohort of 26 student fellows and 12 local mentors from across the country later this month with an intensive orientation in advance of Interfaith America's [annual leadership summit](#) in Chicago, August 11-14. Starting in September, the BILI students and mentors will continue their program with monthly online workshops, a mid-year trip to Washington, DC, the development of local campus/community projects, and a closing session in April 2023.

“The BILI Launchpad Fellowship is a powerful example of what is possible when people from different faith communities and organizations come together to advance a vision of pluralism,” said [Eboo Patel](#), founder and president of [Interfaith America](#). “We are excited to partner with The Miller Center of Hebrew College to leverage our resources and create an innovative national fellowship for emerging young leaders. We are inspired by the enthusiastic response of our campus and organizational colleagues, who embody the ethos we hope to develop in the program.”

Participating institutions for the 2022-2023 academic year include: Brown University, Davidson College, Georgetown University, University of Notre Dame, University of Puget Sound, Stanford University, University of North Florida and University of Rochester. The group is intentionally diverse, bringing together talented young adults and educators from across different religious, cultural, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. All of the participants were chosen based on a demonstrated commitment to the development of inclusive communities and the repair of civic life in this country.

Further expanding the reach of the program, **BILI Online** is now live and will feature 12 curricular modules and dozens of individual multimedia resources. The free resource is designed for use by students, campus professionals, and others interested in interreligious dialogue, study, and action. The modules, which utilize music, poetry, scriptural text, and visual art, cover an array of topics related to interreligious engagement and leadership, including history, theology, psychology, and more. The educational materials are easily adaptable for different educational settings and can be accessed at [hebrewcollege.edu/BILI-online](http://hebrewcollege.edu/BILI-online).

#####

### **About Hebrew College**

Hebrew College reimagines Jewish learning and leadership for an interconnected world from Newton, Mass. Hebrew College's diverse educational and cultural programs for clergy, adults of all ages and stages, and teens invigorate Jewish life and bring Jewish values to bear on the critical issues of our time. By making our lives more meaningful and our world more whole, we infuse Jewish life with substance, spirit, beauty, imagination, and a sense of purpose. Learn more at [hebrewcollege.edu](http://hebrewcollege.edu) and follow Hebrew College on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

The Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership of Hebrew College, established in 2016 in honor of Betty Ann Greenbaum Miller, seeks to provide current and future religious and ethical leaders with the knowledge and skills to serve in a religiously diverse society.

### **About Interfaith America**

Founded in 2002, Interfaith America is the premier interfaith organization in the United States, with 50 full-time professional staff and \$5M in grants distributed in 2021. Through its initiatives and partnerships, Interfaith America is equipping individuals and professionals with the knowledge and skills needed for leadership in a religiously diverse world. For more information, please visit their [new website](#) and follow Interfaith America on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).