

University Presidents, Diversity Officers Learn New Tools to Address Antisemitism

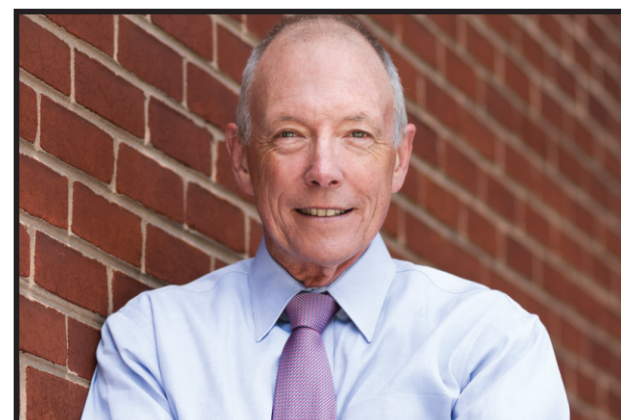
College and university presidents and diversity officers from across North America learned best practices and new tactics to improve the campus climate for Jewish students at the just concluded University Presidents' Summit on Campus Antisemitism. Presented by Hillel International and American Jewish Committee (AJC), in collaboration with the American

Council on Education (ACE), the Summit helped higher education leaders grappling with the multi-faceted challenge of campus antisemitism, from how to define antisemitism to the special role of diversity officers as champions of all students experiencing discrimination.

The conference, held at the Center for Jewish

History in New York City on April 11th and 12th and hosted by New York University President Andrew Hamilton, included presentations from Jewish community leaders, members of United States Congress and university and college presidents, exploring key issues of the distinctive summit in-person with one another.

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Top: (left) Adam Lehman, President and CEO of Hillel Int'l. (center) David Harris, CEO, American Jewish Committee. (right) Ted Mitchell, President, American Council on Education. 2nd row: (left) Rep. Lee Zeldin, US House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism. (center) Rep. Grace Meng, US House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism. (right) Rachel Fish (left), co-founder of Boundless, addresses the University Presidents Summit on Campus Antisemitism, while Holly Huffnagle (center), AJC's US Director for Combatting Antisemitism, and Matthew Berger, Hillel Int'l's VP of External Affairs and Campus Preparedness, look on. 3rd row: (left) Matthew Bronfman, Chair of the Board of Governors of Hillel Int'l and Chair of the Board of Trustees of American Jewish Committee. (center) Anthony Monaco, President, Tufts University. (right) Lee Bollinger, President, Columbia University. Bottom: (left) Andrew Hamilton, President, New York University. (center) Sean Garrick, First Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, University of Minnesota. (right) End Jew-hatred marchers and their mobile billboard outside the antisemitism summit conference calling for action, not mere conversations and meetings.

As Jew-Hatred Seems Never Ending on College Campuses University Presidents & Officers Learn to Address Antisemitism

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Several participants shared thoughts about the challenge of addressing antisemitism on college campuses and the value of the Summit:

Lee C. Bollinger, President, Columbia University: "Antisemitic incidents on college and university campuses represent a threat to our values and our ability to create communities that respect the fundamental dignity and human rights of all members. Addressing them challenges us to take a hard look at difficult questions affecting our campus climates and our society more broadly. This Summit is a timely opportunity to examine the impact of one of the oldest and most resilient forms of hatred with trusted leaders and experts as part of larger efforts to make sure that Jewish students, and all students, feel safe, secure, and included as they pursue their educations."

Andrew Hamilton, President, New York University: "We in this room tonight represent communities of scholars who learn from difference. We must model ways for people to co-exist and celebrate one another's diverse beliefs and backgrounds. Our institutions espouse higher values: learning, critical thinking, and empathy. Antisemitism stems from the opposite of these values, and it is our duty to confront it."

Anthony P. Monaco, President, Tufts University: "Colleges and universities must remain vigilant in our work to address antisemitism's rise on campuses across the country and to foster a safe, healthy and respectful environment for all our students. At Tufts, we have been vigorous in our response, and we were happy to share our approach with other leaders in higher education. Through opportunities such as this Summit and our ongoing collaborations, we will continue to learn from each other as we seek to combat antisemitism on our campuses."

Matthew Bronfman, Chair, Board of Governors, Hillel International and Chair of the AJC Board of Trustees: "Jewish students expect celebration of diversity, yet they experience attacks on what makes them unique. They expect inclusion, yet they experience isolation. They expect equity, yet they experience bullying. Your universities cannot stand for diversity, equity and inclusion selectively. The university must protect every student's safety and each student's right to learn. The question is when will we all do something about it? We know what to do. And our goal in the coming sessions is to share what works: the tools that are available to use right now, and the tools that protect academic institutions from hatred of all kinds."

David Harris, CEO, American Jewish Committee: "We must take antisemitism as seriously as any form of

racism. There is not a hierarchy. To us, all of this is a violation of the promise of America and the spirit of the campus. There is a serious problem of antisemitism on some college campuses today. The more we can convene to discuss antisemitism and share best practices, the more effective we will be in confronting the issue, which affects not just Jewish students, but the very purpose of an American university."

Adam Lehman, President and CEO, Hillel International: "For many years, Jewish students have not been considered by universities to be a particularly vulnerable or marginalized group. In fact, one of the most insidious stereotypes Jewish students face today is that they are part of a uniformly white, rich, privileged group whose experiences with antisemitism, bullying and marginalization are just not that important, relative to more urgent tasks of confronting racism and victimization of other minoritized groups. Our appeal to you today is not to ignore or reduce your deep commitments to fighting racism, gender-based discrimination, and all other forms of inequity and injustice. It is simply to see our Jewish students - in all of their diversity - as also fully deserving of your attention and concern."

Sean Garrick, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign: "Universities are where we go to create the next generation of society - to prototype the future. If you don't invite everyone to that enterprise in a way where they can be their whole selves, you don't get the best outcome. You might think we're doing the work of this conference for Jewish folks, but we're doing this for ourselves. It's a matter of what we want our society to be. If you see one group being disenfranchised and left behind, what does it say about us? Not that we are a rich multicultural society, but that we are a society that picks winners or losers."

Ted Mitchell, President, American Council on Education: "We are here on a mission and that mission is to eradicate antisemitism. Our hope is that you will leave here equipped with strategies and tactics that you can customize to meet the needs of your own unique campus environment. We aim to strengthen the ties between college and university leaders and the Jewish community to foster a mutually supportive and trusting environment when crises occur, and ensure a positive, welcoming environment on campus for Jewish and pro-Israel students."

Rep. Lee Zeldin, US House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism: "You as a university president have the responsibility for all

the faculty and all the administration. If just one goes rogue and isn't being helpful to that student who needs mentorship, that can be a stain on the entire campus. There's a lot that's on your plate but that you're here is extremely impressive."

Rep. Grace Meng, US House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism: "Throughout this battle of trying to combat hate against Asian-Americans, it's Jewish leaders who have held the hands of the Asian-American community, from drafting legislation, pushing the bill, to addressing issues like the data collection. How are we supposed to fix something if no one knows that it's happening?"

About Hillel International

Founded in 1923, Hillel has been enriching the lives of Jewish students for more than 90 years. Today, Hillel International is a global organization that welcomes students of all backgrounds and fosters an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel. Hillel is dedicated to enriching the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. As the largest Jewish student organization in the world, Hillel builds connections with emerging adults at more than 550 colleges and universities

and inspires them to direct their own path.

About American Jewish Committee

American Jewish Committee (AJC), based in New York, with 24 regional offices across the United States and 13 posts around the world, is the premier global Jewish advocacy organization. Founded in 1906, AJC combats antisemitism and other forms of hatred and extremism through pioneering advocacy and engagement with government, faith, education, civic and media leaders. Visit AJC.org and follow on [Facebook.com/AJCGlobal](https://www.facebook.com/AJCGlobal) and [Twitter.co./AJCGlobal](https://twitter.com/AJCGlobal).

About ACE

ACE is a membership organization that mobilizes the higher education community to shape effective public policy and foster innovative, high-quality practice. As the major coordinating body for colleges and universities, our strength lies in our diverse membership of more than 1,700 colleges and universities, related associations in America and abroad. ACE is the only major higher education association to represent all types of US: two-year and four-year, public and private. Visit www.acenet.edu or follow ACE on Twitter @ACEducation.

EndJewHatred Civil Rights Movement Protests Antisemitism on Universities & College Campuses

On Monday, April 11, supporters of the #EndJewHated movement, a grassroots civil rights movement working to eliminate Jew-hatred through peaceful direct action and education, gathered in front of the Jewish Center on W. 16th Street in New York City to protest antisemitism on college campuses. The Jewish Center was hosting a dinner for presidents from over 40 colleges and universities to address the rise of antisemitism on college campuses.

As the college presidents arrived for their event, they were greeted by members of the Jewish community, and their allies, who turned out to make it clear that Jewish students need action, not mere conversations and meetings.

Several of the presidents seemed to be surprised to see activists ready to hold them accountable and demand that they take tangible steps to make it clear that Jew-hatred will not be tolerated on campus, and is as unacceptable in society as every other form of bigotry.

According to EndJewHatred, "College leaders need to make clear that Jew-hatred is as unacceptable in society as every other form of bigotry. No campus is inclusive or diverse without

full representation of, and participation by, Jewish and Zionist students and faculty. Colleges need to protect Jewish identity and foster it, not enable bigotry, hate, and violence by allowing a hostile environment in which faculty and students marginalize Jewish identity through discriminatory BDS initiatives or give propaganda and recruitment platforms to supporters of terrorist organizations who deny Jewish indigeneity to their ancestral homeland. Talk is cheap. The Jewish community needs action. College presidents need to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to Jew-hatred."

After demonstrating in front of the Jewish Center, the protestors, which included members of diverse organizations such as Yad Yamin-NY and Club Z, marched on West 16th Street and on Fifth Avenue.

Following Monday night's dinner, the college and university presidents held their summit on antisemitism this week, but without input from, or attendance by, the very students and community members affected by the skyrocketing incidents of bigotry, discrimination, and violence targeting the Jewish community