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Higher Ed Leaders Gather in NYC for Capstone Seminar on Antisemitism and Jewish Student Inclusion

New York, NY — June 25, 2025 — The Academic Engagement Network (AEN) convened 40 senior higher education administrators in New York City last week for the culmination of its Signature Seminar Series, a yearlong professional development initiative focused on addressing antisemitism on campus and strengthening support for Jewish students. Universities and colleges represented at the convening included the University of Denver, Case Western Reserve University, Dartmouth College, and the University of Minnesota. Now in its fourth year, the initiative has provided intensive training and support for more than 2000 administrators.

The convening, which was held at UJA Federation of New York, featured expert-led sessions on contemporary antisemitism, Jewish identity, and best practices for creating inclusive campus environments. Participants engaged with and learned from AEN faculty members who are leading scholars and practitioners in the field, and had the opportunity to refine institutional strategies to promote Jewish student belonging on their campuses in higher education.

A highlight of the program included a guided tour of [Anne Frank The Exhibition](#) at the Center for Jewish History, reinforcing the historical context of antisemitism and its enduring relevance today. The debrief and discussion were led by CUNY historian Dr. Lauren G. Lockshin.

One attendee said that the conference was “a powerful opportunity to create deep, honest and joyful community with fellow leaders in higher education who are now trusted though partners in my work. AEN did an outstanding job bringing us subject matter experts who expanded my thinking, challenged my biases, and provided me with relevant language and confidence in my approach to bring back to my work on campus. This was one — if not the — most important professional development spaces that I have engaged in during my career.”

The Signature Seminar Series is now accepting applications for its fifth cohort. The program is a core offering of AEN’s Administrator Engagement Programs and aims to equip university professionals with the knowledge and tools to be proactive allies for Jewish students and to respond thoughtfully to the complex dynamics surrounding Israel and antisemitism in academic

settings. AEN offers numerous other engagement and learning opportunities for administrators, including introductory workshops and intensive campus consultations.

Ebonie Jackson, Assistant Dean for Inclusion and Diversity at the Yale School of Management, said that her participation in the Series was “truly transformative. The staff and guest lecturers shared deep knowledge and firsthand insight with great skill, while the workshops strengthened my ability to support Jewish students, faculty, and staff. I also gained a supportive network of peers who’ve had a lasting impact. This experience has reinvigorated my commitment to creating positive change on campus.”

AEN is an independent national organization that mobilizes university faculty and administrators to counter antisemitism, oppose the denigration of Jewish and Zionist identity, promote academic freedom, and advance education about Israel.

For photos, interviews, or additional information, please contact Stephanie Wapner at stephanie@academicengagement.org.