THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Chancellor Search
MISSION OF THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) is a preeminent institution of Jewish higher education that integrates rigorous academic scholarship and teaching with a commitment to strengthening Jewish tradition, Jewish lives, and Jewish communities.

JTS articulates a vision of Judaism that is learned and passionate, pluralist and authentic, traditional and egalitarian; one that is thoroughly grounded in Jewish texts, history, and practices, and fully engaged with the societies and cultures of the present. Our vision joins faith with inquiry; the covenant of our ancestors with the creative insights of today; intense involvement in the society and State of Israel with devotion to the flowering of Judaism throughout the world; service to the Jewish community, as well as to all of the communities of which Jews are a part: our society, our country, and our world.

JTS serves North American Jewry by educating intellectual and spiritual leaders for Conservative Judaism and the vital religious center, training rabbis, cantors, scholars, educators, communal professionals, and lay activists who are inspired by our vision of Torah and dedicated to assisting in its realization.
INTRODUCTION

JTS seeks a visionary leader to become its eighth chancellor. Following in the footsteps of scholars and leaders who have defined Jewish learning and practice for generations and building on the excitement of the opening of JTS’s 21st Century Campus, the chancellor will enhance and sustain JTS’s mission of combining Jewish scholarship with transformative action and leadership. Serving as the chief executive and academic leader of JTS, the chancellor will articulate a vision for the vital center of North American Judaism, while effecting strong management of the schools and facilities, broad engagement of the community, and resource development for the institution.

JTS trains thoughtful, innovative leaders—rabbis, cantors, educators, lay leaders, and scholars—who serve the Jewish people.

Students at JTS enjoy an unparalleled depth and breadth of resources. They are taught by a world-renowned faculty that has included many of the scholars who, over time, have defined how Judaism is practiced across denominational streams. JTS provides its students with professional mentors that are deeply committed to developing the next generation of Jewish leaders. The five schools of JTS include an undergraduate college, a rabbinical school, a cantorial school, a graduate school of education, and a graduate school for Jewish studies.

The Library of JTS preserves and makes accessible to students, faculty, scholars, and members of the public the most important collection of Judaica in the Western Hemisphere. JTS is also home to cutting-edge centers for pastoral education, spiritual arts, interreligious dialogue, ethics, and social justice, and a unique program in social entrepreneurship.

For over 130 years, JTS has served as the intellectual and spiritual center of Conservative Judaism. JTS continues to serve as a key voice in the ongoing conversation about North American Judaism and its vital religious center.
THE ROLE OF
THE CHANCELLOR

Reporting to the Board of Trustees of JTS, the chancellor is responsible for the following:

- Working with the board to execute JTS’s mission;
- Working with JTS executive officers to define a strategy to sustain and grow the reach of the institution and correctly define the size and makeup of the staff, faculty, research, curriculum, and programs;
- Creating both the vision and the intellectual foundation to enhance meaning in Jewish communities across North America and provide them with the leaders and tools to strengthen Jewish identification and enhance Jewish practice;
- Managing the JTS operating budget of $32 million;
- Overseeing and growing the approximately $150 million JTS endowment; and
- Ensuring effective control of all JTS assets with a value in excess of $500 million, including real estate holdings and the Library’s rare book collection.

The following positions report directly to the chancellor:

- **Provost and Dean of the Gershon Kekst Graduate School**
  The associate provost, deans, faculty, and Library report through the provost.

- **Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer**
  Development, Community Engagement, Finance, Legal, Communications, Information Technology, Enrollment Management, Student Services, Residence Life, and Human Resources report through the executive vice chancellor.

In addition, the national director of the National Ramah Commission reports to both the chancellor and the executive vice chancellor of JTS.

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OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP
The next chancellor will serve as a leader and spokesperson for JTS, articulating an expansive role for the institution in shaping the future landscape of Jewish life in North America and beyond. The next chancellor will engage with local, national, and international audiences to convey, with conviction, the unique value of JTS in providing educational and religious leadership to ensure the vitality of the North American Jewish community.

STRATEGIC PLANNING
Along with the board of trustees, faculty, staff, and students, the next chancellor will design and implement a new strategic plan to ensure continued strength, vitality, and growth in the coming years. The chancellor will take advantage of the many opportunities for collaboration available to JTS and continue to build partnerships within the Jewish community and throughout higher education.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY, AND ASSET MANAGEMENT
The next chancellor will build on JTS’s fundraising efforts by personally engaging with key supporters, friends, alumni, and new donors to grow and diversify the revenue base. The chancellor’s ongoing commitment to fundraising, building the endowment, and disciplined spending will help JTS thrive today and secure the institution’s future. The chancellor will continue the work of leveraging JTS’s many assets, including real estate holdings, to best align with the highest strategic priorities of the institution.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM
The next chancellor will continue the work of attracting and retaining outstanding faculty, strengthening existing and building new academic programs, and overseeing curriculum development and reform that serves the needs of North American Jewry. Understanding the unique strength of JTS as an institution combining rigorous intellectual, religious, and professional training, the chancellor will support robust academic programs such that JTS remains the flagship producer of Jewish leadership in North America.

ENROLLMENT GROWTH AND STUDENT SUCCESS
JTS will look to its next chancellor to be innovative in forming strategies for communicating JTS’s values and to lead a new phase of smart growth in enrollment, including the strategic expansion of students on campus and increased online and hybrid study. The next chancellor will also lead efforts across campus to support a culture of student success.
DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

JTS seeks a visionary thought leader with a deep appreciation for scholarship, study, community, and Conservative Judaism. The chancellor will be a compelling communicator with strong writing and oral abilities, a partner with a proven ability to work across organizational boundaries, and an effective and enthusiastic networker and fundraiser. Ideally, the next chancellor will have successfully led an academically excellent organization or unit of some scale and will have earned a PhD or terminal degree and/or a rabbinic ordination. The preferred candidate will demonstrate an ability to reinforce values of collaboration and inclusion in all aspects of leadership and community engagement, and be a passionate advocate for JTS, Judaism, and the Jewish people.

Ideally, the eighth chancellor of JTS should be:

- A thought leader whose vision, views, and definition of Judaism will inspire support from a broad and diverse community;
- A person who understands the needs of individual Jews and the broader Jewish community and who will serve as a leading figure in American Jewish life;
- A creative leader who understands the importance of innovation and technology in growing the influence of JTS;
- An effective manager who is able to direct JTS’s senior administrative team in the building and refining of systems that ensure efficiency across the campus;
- An entrepreneur who is unafraid to take calculated risks to solve problems;
- A community builder who works to enhance collaboration among JTS students, faculty, and staff;
- An engaging, energetic, persuasive, and inspiring communicator;
- Personally observant, with the ability to inspire others to greater heights of spirituality;
- A speaker of modern Hebrew;
- A person with a network and relationships to work across Conservative Judaism and other liberal Jewish streams to facilitate growth and resource efficiency; and
- Someone who possesses high energy, deep empathy, and a natural love of engaging with people.
THE 21ST CENTURY CAMPUS AND CROSSROADS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

In 2015, JTS announced a major project to reimagine its Morningside Heights campus. The 21st Century Campus is scheduled to open in spring 2020 and includes a new space for the world-renowned Library of JTS, a new student residence hall and dining commons, a 200-seat auditorium, and a light-filled atrium connecting old and new facilities. JTS is also in the midst of a $225 million fundraising initiative, the Crossroads Campaign, with 69 percent of this goal raised as of June 30, 2019. This campaign is the most significant effort in the institution’s history, which includes enhancing the campus while expanding student scholarship opportunities and programs to ensure JTS’s future and vitality.
ACADEMICS

THE ACADEMIC UNITS OF JTS INCLUDE

LIST COLLEGE
Students at List College pursue a rigorous, synergistic, and broad curriculum in Jewish studies at JTS and in the liberal arts and sciences at either Columbia University or Barnard College, earning two BA degrees in four years.

Each List College student pursues a comprehensive core curriculum in Jewish studies and chooses a major field in which to specialize. Students forge an intentional community of Jewish living, learning, and spirituality in the JTS residence hall, and gain the knowledge and skills that enable them to pursue careers in areas such as law, business, science, Jewish communal life, and the nonprofit world, while becoming lay leaders of key Jewish institutions. Students also pursue an array of internship and study abroad opportunities, or they can work with a faculty member to tailor a course of independent study.

THE WILLIAM DAVIDSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JEWISH EDUCATION
The William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education trains the leaders who will shape the lives and communities of the Jewish people for decades to come.

The William Davidson School is the largest pluralistic school of Jewish education in North America. Partnerships with key institutions in the Jewish and education worlds, including Teachers College, Columbia University, ensure that master’s and doctoral students have access to a comprehensive catalog of programs and complementary courses in general education. William Davidson students pursue their academic interests—Israel studies, the arts, sacred texts, literature, ritual, Jewish history—while connecting this learning to instruction in Jewish education and customized field placements overseen by experienced mentors. The school also provides leadership training to educators in the field, through programs such as the Day School Leadership Training Institute and the Jewish Early Childhood Education Leadership Institute.

THE RABBINICAL SCHOOL
Since 1887, JTS rabbinical graduates have become known around the world for creating sacred centers of Jewish faith, rearticulating 3,000-year-old traditions, and creating new opportunities to live a meaningful Jewish life.

Rabbinical students spend their first year on the JTS campus in New York, cultivating their skills in Hebrew language and the interpretation of classical Jewish texts, and their second year in Israel, first at the Galilee’s flourishing Kibbutz Hannaton and then the Schocken Institute for Jewish Research, JTS’s campus in central Jerusalem. The final three years of the Rabbinical School curriculum are highly individualized. Students select their own Judaica electives and earn an MA in an area of their choosing: in Jewish education through The William Davidson School or in a field of Jewish studies through Kekst Graduate School. In addition to completing a unit of clinical pastoral education, they can also earn a Certificate in Pastoral Care from JTS’s Center for Pastoral Education. Students take on internships in diverse settings such as Hillels, congregations, and federations; work at Camp Ramah or USY; and receive intensive mentoring from veteran rabbis.

THE GERSHON KEKST GRADUATE SCHOOL
The Kekst Graduate School educates scholars and professional leaders for academia, the Jewish community, and beyond. Kekst offers the most extensive academic program in advanced Jewish studies in North America, awarding master’s, Doctor of Hebrew Literature, and PhD degrees in numerous areas of specialization. Students delve deeply into their chosen areas of focus while acquiring broad-based knowledge of the Jewish experience. Consortia with area institutions such as Columbia, Union Theological Seminary, Yale, and Princeton enable students to gain expertise in cognate subject areas. Alumni of Kekst Graduate School serve as professors, educators, organizational leaders, Jewish communal professionals, and lay leaders.

H. L. MILLER CANTORIAL SCHOOL
H. L. Miller Cantorial School blends classical and contemporary skills in its comprehensive three- to five-year program, teaching mastery of the Jewish musical tradition and effective, inspiring religious leadership. Students learn contemporary and traditional nusah (prayer modes) with practicing cantors, acquire and regularly perform a repertoire of classical and contemporary Jewish music, study Judaica with the finest faculty in North America, and practice their craft through supported internships.
THE JTS LIBRARY
The Library of JTS is one of the greatest Judaic studies libraries in the world. In addition to its 400,000 circulating volumes, the Library has an exceptional collection of rare materials, including the world’s largest collection of Hebrew manuscripts, 43,000 fragments from the Cairo Genizah, extensive archives, and much more.

A state-of-the-art facility to house the Library will open this spring as part of JTS’s 21st Century Campus. The new Library will be a top-tier research library, providing students, faculty, outside scholars, and the public at large with an inviting new space that offers a rich collection of print, manuscript, and digital resources, and expands access to the Library’s unparalleled Judaic collection.

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

CENTER FOR PASTORAL EDUCATION
The Center for Pastoral Education is one of the only seminary-based centers accredited in North America under Jewish auspices, providing in-depth training and certification to students, members of the clergy, and people of all faiths who seek intensive training in pastoral care. The center offers a variety of clinical programs, as well as flexible online options. JTS rabbinical and cantorial students complete a 400-hour unit of CPE as part of their training.

BLOCK / KOLKER CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL ARTS
The Block / Kolker Center for Spiritual Arts offers training and mentoring for JTS students in prayer and prayer leadership, support for students’ own spiritual growth, and programs for the public. The center has as its mission the re-embodiment of Jewish prayer as a way to open the heart, expand the mind, and grow the soul.

MILSTEIN CENTER FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE
The Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue (MCID) sponsors timely discussions and activities among diverse leaders, continuing JTS’s decades-long commitment to interreligious engagement. The center focuses particularly on fostering Jewish-Christian and Jewish-Muslim understanding and partnership, and has been a trailblazer in both of these areas.

LOUIS FINKELSTEIN INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL STUDIES
The Louis Finkelstein Institute for Religious and Social Studies (LFI) brings together great thinkers from diverse academic, social, political, and religious spheres to wrestle with the most urgent challenges of the day. Recent LFI events have included welcoming World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to speak on the “Moral Imperative to End Extreme Poverty,” as well as programs on the environment, feminism, and other issues of social justice. In the last few years, LFI has gained renown for its cutting-edge discussions of public policy and biomedical ethics.

HENDEL CENTER FOR ETHICS AND JUSTICE
Launched in April 2019, the Hendel Center formally weaves the study of Jewish ethics and training in civic engagement into the curriculum at JTS. Rooted in Jewish history, teaching, and texts, the Hendel Center offers academic study, skills training, internships, panels, lectures, workshops, and research opportunities. The center convenes clergy, educators, and activists from various faith communities to study, share ideas, and collaborate to address pressing ethical issues. A key part of the center’s mission includes partnering across faith lines to help bridge the divides confronting society today.
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND COMMUNITY LEARNING

JTS supports Jewish leaders with professional development programs, nurturing the sustained growth and innovation of leaders who guide the Jewish world’s institutions and communities. These programs include:

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CLERGY
• The Rabbinic Training Institute (RTI)
• Summer Rabbinic Learning Conference
• Online Learning for Clergy

FOR JEWISH EDUCATORS
• Day School Leadership Training Institute (DSLTI)
• Jewish Early Childhood Education Leadership Institute (JECEL)
• Ivriyon: Hebrew Immersion Institute for Day School Educators
• The Legacy Heritage Instructional Leadership Institute
• Jewish Experiential Leadership Institute (JELI)

FOR OTHER PROFESSIONALS
• North American Association of Synagogue Executives Week of Study

FOR THE PUBLIC
JTS’s community learning programs extend the institution’s sophisticated scholarship and meaningful insights into Torah beyond the classroom to Jewish learners around the world. JTS offers online classes, JTS Torah Online, and in-person courses covering topics in Jewish history, philosophy, religion, arts, and literature. JTS also partners with Jewish communities across North America to bring in faculty for highly customized programs or to share courses and curricula that rabbis and educators can incorporate into existing adult education frameworks.
THE JTS COMMUNITY

STUDENTS
The 346 JTS degree students are the Jewish leaders of tomorrow, and they join a passionate Jewish community enriched by world-class scholars, where they wrestle with texts, seek guidance on modern issues from ancient sages, learn from exceptional role models, and are nurtured by caring mentors. With a student-faculty ratio of 10:1, JTS students are truly known as individuals. JTS students come from varied backgrounds, but they share a passion for and commitment to Jewish life and learning, and a devotion to bringing Judaism alive for the next generation.

The Office of Student Life provides opportunities and programs for students at all levels to come together to observe and celebrate Jewish living, to enrich the shared experience of a spiritual and academic community, and to contribute to the vibrant, creative atmosphere at JTS.

FACULTY
The 39 full-time faculty and 53 part-time faculty at JTS represent top scholars across the fields of Jewish studies who are committed to translating the richness of their disciplinary and professional experiences into meaningful learning experiences that inspire students from all five schools. This collection of experts creates a singular depth and breadth of scholarship, teaching, and publishing.

ALUMNI
JTS alumni hold leadership roles at more than 600 congregations and schools, 100 Jewish organizations worldwide, 150 major universities, and 35 JCCs, federations, and summer camps. Imbued with a spirit of innovation, JTS alumni have helped create new community organizations and spiritual practices, founding Camp Ramah, the Jewish Museum, Schechter Institute, Avodah, Mechon Hadar, Ikar, Encounter, and other organizations that have become an integral part of the Jewish cultural landscape.

JTS embraces its role as the intellectual and spiritual center of Conservative Judaism, while proudly training leaders for the entire Jewish world.

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NEW YORK CITY:
Unsurpassed Intellectual, Cultural, and Social Resources

New York City is one of the world’s cultural capitals and is home to premier art, theater, and music institutions. Countless universities, libraries, museums, galleries, theaters, and other cultural institutions are a walk or a subway ride from the JTS campus. From the Jewish Museum to Israeli film festivals, from prominent Jewish personalities to the Jewish music scene and kosher restaurants, New York City presents an unparalleled opportunity to explore the richness of Jewish identity.
FOR CONSIDERATION

For best consideration, please send all nominations and applications to:

Storbeck Pimentel & Associates

Shelly Storbeck, Managing Partner
Lisa Solinsky, Associate
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It is JTS policy that all employees and applicants for employment are afforded equal opportunities for employment, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, disability, age, sex, national origin, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other factors as prohibited by law.