

Mark L. Goldstein to Receive Doctor of Jewish Communal Service at HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremony in Los Angeles

Mark L. Goldstein, Executive Director and Chief Professional Officer of the **Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley**, Allentown, Pennsylvania, will receive a Doctor of Jewish Communal Service, *honoris causa*, from the **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR)**. The degree will be granted at HUC-JIR's Los Angeles Graduation ceremony on Monday, May 18, 2009. HUC-JIR is the nation's oldest institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism.

Communal leaders, relatives, and friends will gather at the Los Angeles Campus, 3077 University Avenue, for the HUC-JIR Graduation Ceremonies of the 134th academic year.

Rabbi David Ellenson, Ph.D., announced HUC-JIR alumni recipients who will be awarded honorary Doctorates of Divinity, Music, Jewish Religious Education, and Jewish Communal Service, as well as the Founders' Medallion, in recognition of their 25 years of distinguished professional service.

Goldstein serves as Executive Director and Chief Professional Officer of the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley (JFLV), a position he has held since August 2002.

As the Federation's chief executive officer, Goldstein oversees all activities performed by the Federation including the annual fundraising efforts, community organization and development activities such as community relations, human resource development, government relations, and community planning and allocations.

Rabbi Ellenson said, "Goldstein has give effective and singular leadership to Jewish Federations in Virginia, Missouri, and California, and now to the Lehigh Valley. His talents as a fund raiser have helped guide federations to new heights of success. And his multi-faceted involvement in civic and Jewish organizations have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues."

From 1993 – 2002, Goldstein served as Executive Vice President and Chief Professional Officer of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater (UJFT) serving the southeastern Virginia cities of Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Suffolk. Prior to moving to Virginia, Mark worked at the Jewish Federation of St. Louis for nearly ten years, serving the Federation in a variety of capacities, including, Associate Executive Director, Director of Community Planning and Allocations, and Director of Leadership Development. Goldstein also worked professionally for the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and was a regional program director for United Synagogue Youth.

Goldstein has lectured at Washington University's Graduate School of Social Work on organizational dynamics and human service management. He is a former member of the

United Jewish Communities Executive Committee and is a former chairman of intermediate communities, an association of 60+ like size Jewish federations.

Goldstein holds a Master in Social Work from the University of Southern California and a Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Service from Hebrew Union College. He is also a graduate of the University of Judaism, the west coast affiliate of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Goldstein is a member of the National Committee on Planned Giving, the preeminent association for professionals in the charitable gift planning field. He is also a member of the National Association of Social Workers, Jewish Communal Service Association, Association of Jewish Community Organization Personnel, and the National Society of Fund Raising Executives.

Goldstein has been awarded the Louis Kraft Award from the Jewish Communal Service Association, the Sherman Fellow from Brandies University, and was selected for the Federation Executive Recruitment and Education Program (FEREP) scholarship by the Council of Jewish Federations.

Mark resides in Allentown, PA with his wife, Shari Spark, a cantorial soloist and Jewish educator; they are the proud parents of two children.

For more information on the HUC-JIR Graduation, Investiture, and Ordination ceremonies in New York, Los Angeles, and Cincinnati, please visit <http://www.huc.edu/newspubs/pressroom/article.php?pressroomid=271>.

*Founded in 1875, **Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion** is the nation's oldest institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR educates men and women for service to American and world Jewry as rabbis, cantors, educators, and communal service professionals, and offers graduate and post-graduate programs to scholars of all faiths. With centers of learning in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, and New York, HUC-JIR's scholarly resources comprise renowned library and museum collections, the American Jewish Archives, biblical archaeology excavations, research institutes and centers, and academic publications. HUC-JIR invites the community to an array of cultural and educational programs which illuminate Jewish history, identity, and contemporary creativity and which foster interfaith and multiethnic understanding. Visit us at www.huc.edu.*

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