Position Statement For
Dean of Jewish Studies
Begin July 1, 2015

Overview:
The American Hebrew Academy is America’s only international Jewish college preparatory boarding school. Located in Greensboro, North Carolina, on a 100 acre wooded campus, the Academy offers our self-motivated students, who have come from 28 states and 30 countries, the opportunity to receive a rigorous college preparatory education while strengthening their Jewish identity.

With an average class size of twelve, our students are taught by an esteemed faculty most of whom have advanced degrees in their field (72% hold Masters Degrees/31% hold Doctorates). Technology is central to every student's experience at the Academy as each classroom is equipped with Smart Boards and each student receives a business-quality tablet computer. The Academy’s customized classroom design is unique.

Approximately eight-five percent of our students live on campus, while the other fifteen percent are day students.

Our residential campus includes 16 dormitories, each with a 2,400 square foot Houseparent home and an efficiency apartment for a house Associate (Fellow). Each residence dormitory houses 18-22 students including a senior honor student (Madrich/Madricha).

The Dean of Jewish Studies is a senior administrative position overseeing curriculum and professional, day to day operations, organizational development, structure and implementation of the Jewish Studies curriculum from traditional courses of Jewish learning to cutting edge contemporary courses reflecting the dynamic of modern Jewish life in a pluralistic society.

The Dean of Jewish Studies may live on campus and may assume house parenting responsibilities.

Major Responsibilities:

• Establish traditional and innovative Judaic Studies courses that provide the Academy with a course of study that will garner worldwide recognition for innovative and transformational modalities for Jewish education. The Jewish Studies curriculum should be inviting to students; providing both fundamental Jewish educational principles as well as the study of current issues impacting Jewish society around the world.

• Uses the Academy as an incubator for the development of innovative curricula for the study of both traditional text as well as courses for teenagers to better explore and

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advance their understanding of their own Jewish identity and the changing Jewish world in which they are living now and in the future.

- Works collaboratively with the Dean of Jewish Life and Campus Rabbis to bring creative Jewish programming to campus that expands the extracurricular Judaic offerings within the community beyond the classroom.
- Works closely with and oversees the Jewish Studies Faculty, Hebrew Language Faculty, and Director of the Hebrew Language Learning Lab to design and coordinate Jewish Studies curricula.
- Assigns teaching sections to Jewish Studies Faculty, conducts faculty evaluations, monitors the quality of instruction, assessment, and grade reporting in the department, oversees the mentoring of incoming faculty members, and manages the progress of students towards meeting graduation requirements for Jewish Studies and Hebrew Language.
- Works closely with the Dean of Academics to ensure that the school schedule is completed in a timely and effective manner and that all accreditation standards and reports are prepared timely.
- Develops a strategic program design towards cutting-edge, innovative, and exemplary courses and programs in Jewish Studies and the Hebrew Language Departments.

Challenges:
- Create a Jewish Studies curriculum for a diverse student/parent audience that is inspiring.
- Work towards a school culture that values Jewish Studies as college preparatory and is academically rigorous.
- Generate an understanding within the school dynamic among teachers and students that recognizes the importance of Jewish Studies on the same plane as General Studies’ courses in terms of rigor, substance, and engagement.

Educational and Experience:
- Master’s Degree or Doctorate in related field of study combined with seasoned experience.
- A demonstrable career history of effective and innovative Jewish educational leadership at the high school or university level.
- Strong written and interpersonal skills, well organized, and ability to motivate others to reach common goals.
- Thorough understanding of Jewish values, religious and educational practices amongst various denominations, and ability to appreciate, respect, and academically serve the many views voiced by all denominations of the Jewish faith.

Position Within the Organization:
This is a twelve month position reporting to the Head of School or their designee. Office space is provided for the Dean in the Academic Administration Office. The Dean of Jewish Studies serves on the Executive Committee of the school.

Salary
Salary will be determined based upon one’s credentials and experience. Salary is paid once per month over a 12 month period.
Benefits Beyond Salary:
Room and board for family, health insurance plan, life insurance plan, dental insurance plan, TIAA-CREF retirement plan, annual personal and vacation leave.

Residential Life on Campus:
Residential students live on campus in a house that has a Houseparent, a Fellow, a House Associate, and a Madrich/Madricha (honored student of the senior class). Students usually live two per room and 18 to 22 per house. Laundry facilities are available in each house.

During non-class hours students are provided with a rich array of athletic, theatrical, club, youth group and Tikkun Olam activities. Each weekday evening Z’man Limud (Study Time) is observed between 8:00 PM and 10:00 PM, after which students may have a bit of free time before in-house time and house meetings.

The Academy operates as a community 24/7, ten months out of the year including Shabbat and most Jewish holidays (excluding Peseach). As a boarding school the learning of our students extends well beyond the classroom. It is why we say at the American Hebrew Academy →High School Can Mean So Much More. An Academy education encompasses formal classroom work in general and Jewish studies, informal student life, and Jewish programs, communal and religious, sports, theater and a wide range of leadership, Tikkun Olam and community activities.

Campus facilities include a 22-acre lake with boathouse, dock, kayaks and sailboats, an 88,000 square foot athletic center with exercise room, racquetball court, rock-climbing wall, eight-lane competition indoor swimming pool, basketball arena, and snack bar. The campus has eight tennis courts, three soccer fields, a baseball field, a softball field, a soccer stadium, and composite rubberized 400 meter track.

Dean of Jewish Studies Living Arrangements:
The Dean of Jewish Studies may live on campus and may be called upon to provide house parenting services in conjunction with other administrative duties. In such a case, room and board would be provided for the Dean and his/her family in a well-appointed, spacious, 4 bedroom apartment.

Each residential house has an attached 2,400 square foot apartment. This apartment is two floors. On one floor are a master bedroom with private bath, and three additional bedrooms, a second bath and private laundry. On the other floor is a very spacious living room, dining room, kitchen space, a foyer, a bathroom, and a large personal study. The personal study connects to the living space in the residence hall, and provides privacy for the house parent family. All house parent apartments have a private entrance at ground level.

A two car garage is provided near the entrance way to the campus for senior house parents. An electric golf cart is provided for convenient transportation on this pedestrian campus.

Religious and Spiritual Life on Campus:
The American Hebrew Academy seeks to create a community rich with Jewish tradition, culture, and lifestyle. Pluralism at the Academy supports different paths to a fully Jewish life. Each student should share in an active effort to engage in Jewish tradition – intellectually, emotionally, behaviorally, and spiritually – so as to find ever-developing and expanding ways to integrate
his/her Jewish heritage into our lives. Our goal at the Academy is to provide courses and programming that allow students to explore and find the Jewish path that is most fulfilling to them.

It is our goal to maximize the integration of our formal and informal Jewish educational programs through the collaborative efforts of the Dean of Jewish Studies and the Dean of Jewish Life.

The Dean of Jewish Studies must serve as a positive adult role model who our students will seek to emulate.

**Academy History:**
The American Hebrew Academy was founded in 1996 by Maurice “Chico” Sabbah, z”l and his wife Zmira who dreamed of developing a first of its kind Jewish community in which Jewish teenagers from around the world and from all Jewish denominations and backgrounds could come together and live in a serene environment to enrich their knowledge of Jewish culture, history and religious practice, both traditional and modern while preparing for admission to college and university and future positions of leadership in the community.

In 1999 the first foundational steps were made with the purchase of 100 wooded acres and lake frontage in Greensboro, North Carolina. By early spring 1999, Frank Lloyd Wright’s associate architect, Aaron Green was commissioned to create the master plan for the campus and building designs for every building the Academy would eventually need for the immediate future and for years to come.

On September 10, 2001, the Academy opened its gates to 77 pioneering (“Chalutzim”) students. Today, the Academy is a thriving Jewish educational institution whose graduates have all gone on to continue their education at some of the finest colleges and universities in the United States, Israel, and around the world.

This position statement is intended to describe the general content of and requirements for the performance of this job. It is not to be construed as an exhaustive statement of duties, responsibilities, or requirements.

The American Hebrew Academy is a faith based educational institution. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national origin, physical disability, sexuality, age or heritage in its hiring or admission policies. The American Hebrew Academy is a demanding academic high school for qualified students in grades 9-12 and its curriculum honors the faith and religious practice of the Jewish people.

**Direct resumes and inquiries to:**
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