



The American Technion Society: A Fundraising Pacesetter

The mission of the American Technion Society (ATS) is to raise funds on behalf of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, to help the university be among the World's leading institutions, improving the well being of Israel and humanity through leadership in science and technology. Since it was founded in 1940, the ATS has raised more than \$2 billion for the Technion, making it one of the fastest growing fund-raising organizations in the United States.

In 1924, Albert Einstein became chairman of the world's first Technion Society in Germany. Today there are 18 Technion Societies around the world. The American Technion Society — the largest — was launched by a group of visionary entrepreneurs and scientists that included Albert Einstein. The New York City-based organization has some 20,000 supporters – served by a network of chapter offices around the country.

The Technion, located in Haifa, is ranked among the world's top science and technology universities. It has earned a global reputation in many fields including biomedical engineering, nanotechnology, energy, communication technology and aerospace. It has given the world such pioneering technologies as efficient water recycling and desalination... effective anti-terror technologies... algorithms that undergird all our Internet communication... drugs that treat cancer and slow neurodegenerative diseases ... and breakthroughs in sustainable energy.

As important, Technion graduates founded or lead more than half of Israeli companies on Nasdaq, as well as 30 of its 100 largest companies. MATAM, the country's largest and most established industrial park for high-tech companies, is located near the Technion to take advantage of its research power and talented graduates. The Technion is the top Israeli University (and 59th overall) on Reuters' 2016 list of "The World's 100 Most Innovative Universities." It is also one of the "Top 10 Colleges for Tech CEOs," according to an August 2013 report by Bloomberg Rankings. The Technion (tied for #7) is the only university outside of the U.S. on the list.

The influence of the Technion on Israel's economy is known the world over, and a growing number of universities, municipalities and businesses are eager to partner with it. Perhaps no collaboration speaks to the Technion's reputation more than its partnership with Cornell University, selected to create a new applied science educational institution in New York City. At the very heart of this initiative is the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute (Jacobs

Institute), which offers a dual master's degree from both universities, and which is expected to help create tens of thousands of jobs and businesses. The Cornell Tech campus is currently housed in space Google-provided space in Chelsea. The Cornell Tech campus, now under construction on New York City's Roosevelt Island, will open in 2017.

Another key international partnership is the Guangdong Technion Israel Institute of Technology (GTIIT), which provides clear evidence of the Technion's burgeoning global influence. It is viewed by many as part of the broader movement of globalization now sweeping the academic world. Courses will officially begin in September of 2017; the campus, currently under construction, is slated to open in June of 2018.

On the university's campus on Mount Carmel in Haifa, the American Technion Society's supportive presence is clearly visible in a vast network of buildings, laboratories, classrooms, libraries, dormitories and recreational facilities, as well as in numerous research and academic projects.

These include multidisciplinary research centers that focus on cutting-edge fields such as water, energy, nanotechnology, life sciences and robotics; scholarships, fellowships, academic chairs and lectureships; dormitories; the Samuel Neaman Institute for Advanced Studies in Science and Technology, the Middle East's leading think-tank; and a business incubator that turns Technion innovations into successful companies.

The ATS offers supporters many opportunities to participate in the university's achievements. On missions or field trips to the Technion, they meet students whose scholarships they support and professors whose chairs they endow, see the teaching and research they fund in action and in their business applications in the marketplace.

Governed by a national Board of Directors whose officers are elected by the membership, the ATS is directed by Jeffrey Richard, executive vice president. Zahava Bar-Nir is national president and Scott Leemaster is chairman of the board. Many members are actively involved in expanding the organization's base, developing new leaders and enhancing fundraising.

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