



Highlights of the Key Findings from the JESNA Study and Evaluation

(The executive summary and complete report are available upon request.)

Alumni Response Rate: 80%

Before the DTF Program:

- The top three reasons alumni gave for applying to the DTF program were: 1. Travel Overseas, 2. Community, and 3. that it was an “Elite Leadership” Experience.

The DTF Alumni Experience:

- 76% of Diller alumni stated that they were active in Jewish and social justice organizations in college as a result of their experience in the DTF program. A third of the participants went on to say that they were involved in 6-10 Jewish or social justice activities in college.
- 78% of Diller alumni reported affiliation with Hillel on campus. Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life reports that the national average of Jewish students who affiliate with Hillel is 30%.
- 77% of Diller alumni reported they have given money to Jewish causes.

The Impact of DTF in each of the four core areas / pillars of the program:

Leadership:

- 72% of Diller alumni agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the Diller program they had a greater understanding of their roles as leaders in the Jewish community.

Social Justice / Activism:

- Over 80% of Diller alumni agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the program they gained a better understanding of the principle of *Tikkun Olam*, cultivated an interest in making a difference in the world and, by virtue of their participation in this program, now feel that they *can* make a difference in the world. Almost 80% agreed or strongly agreed that as a result of the program they felt compelled as a Jew to make a difference in the world and felt it is important for Jews to give back to the community.

Connection to Israel:

- 90% of Diller alumni who went to Israel for the Summer Seminar agreed or strongly agreed that the program provided them with an understanding of the issues confronting Israel and Israeli society. Three-quarters of all Diller alumni (including those who did not go to Israel for the Summer Seminar) indicated that the program contributed to their having a deep connection with Israel and Israelis.

Judaism:

- Approximately 80% of Diller alumni agreed or strongly agreed that the program contributed to their feeling that being Jewish is an important part of their identity, to their having a more complex understanding of Jewish life and culture, and to having a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people. Approximately 75% agreed or strongly agreed that the program increased their knowledge of major Jewish communal issues in the world.

Representative quotes from alumni:

“I felt like the Jewish community was placing a trust in me by selecting me for the program, and that I have an obligation to support the community throughout my life, which is great.”

“The program was very helpful in helping to reconcile the two-self existences into which I had fallen; instead of continuing to have a "Jewish life" and a "secular life" I learned how to make my whole life one that is seen through a Jewish lens.”

“I will never forget our Israel experience! I am still best friends with one of the Israeli girls that joined us in Israel. She and I will still talk about the trip and one of the things that she remembers most is a conversation we had one Shabbat about pluralism and the lack of understanding she had for our "American" perspective.”

“As a Jew it is your duty to pursue social justice not just for the Jewish people but all the people of the world.”