



# WHAT'S NEXT: CLEVELAND

bringing innovation to cleveland >> pt staff

Three innovative Jewish ventures sure to impact the local Jewish community: these will be the fruits of a pilot Fellowship program of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland in partnership with the PresenTense Group. After a competitive application process, a steering committee of 14 of Cleveland's most promising Jewish professionals has selected three outstanding entrepreneurs: Madeline Bleiweiss, Jenny Kaufman, and Noah Sudow.

Similar to the Boston Fellowship, the Cleveland Fellowship will engage the local community and develop projects relevant to the city's unique interests and needs.

"Cleveland is blessed with engaged, talented, and creative thinkers. Matched with PresenTense's proven ability in training young entrepreneurs to implement their ideas, our community will be a leader in bringing innovative and inspiring ideas to life," said Stephen H. Hoffman, President of the Cleveland Federation.

The Cleveland entrepreneurs will be joining the PresenTense Global Institute this summer, where they will develop their ventures and build their entrepreneurial skillsets. Over the course of the summer, they will have the opportunity to connect with a global community of innovators and network with some of Jerusalem's finest minds in the fields of business strategies, value propositions, fundraising, and marketing and communications.

Following the summer Institute, the innovators will return to their hometown to incubate their ideas and work with mentors and skill-builders in their fields towards launching their ventures. They will participate in Cleveland "boardroom hopping" sessions, where they will meet the city's most accomplished entrepreneurs, men and women who have built their organizations from the bottom up and who can impart the invaluable lessons and skills they have learned along the way. At the end of the year, a Launch Night will introduce the projects to Cleveland's local leaders and community members.

By partnering with PresenTense, the Federation gains a unique opportunity to engage local community members interested in social innovation, both the young adult entrepreneurs as well as those who participate through the steering committee, mentorship programs, and boardroom hopping.

PresenTense will work closely with Federation professionals and lay leaders who know the intricacies of the Jewish community. Their knowledge has enabled a deep understanding of the applicants' projects essential in making key strategic decisions: which projects does the Cleveland Jewish community need the most? Which are most likely to succeed? Which innovators stand the best chance of inspiring the community and helping to foster an environment of renewal and vibrancy?

The selected fellows' projects exemplify such energy, and each will strengthen the Cleveland community in an exceptional way. Noah Sudow's venture will foster research collaborations between Northeast Ohio and Israeli universities. These collaborations will focus on research and product commercialization, which will, in turn, bring new industries and jobs to the Cleveland region and Israel. Jenny Kaufman's Young Professionals' Minyan will create a vibrant, grassroots, non-affiliated, open-minded minyan for young Jews who are otherwise unaffiliated with local synagogues. Madeline Bleiweiss' venture will motivate Cleveland's Jewish community to promote Cleveland in a youthful and desirable light for singles and young couples.

"This program is going to bring out the real gems of the Cleveland community and ensure its vibrancy," noted Steve Rosen, head of the Cleveland PresenTense Fellowship Steering Committee. "We are constantly looking for ways to think big, challenge norms, and create a culture where dreams to improve society can be supported and actualized." **PT**

