



Imagine...a more peaceful world that respects difference.
We are committed to making that vision a reality.

PRESS RELEASE

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Tanenbaum | Center for Interreligious Understanding Named Nissan Foundation Grant Recipient for Education

New York, NY, November, 2021: The Nissan Foundation today named Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding a 2021 grant recipient. The Nissan Foundation grant will help fund the cultivation a virtual community of educators committed to promoting inclusive education in their classrooms. Using Tanenbaum's newly updated edition of its World Olympics curriculum, educators will teach their students needed skills in demonstrating respectful curiosity about difference. Tanenbaum will support these educators with training, supplemental materials and opportunities to engage with other educators who are also using World Olympics.

"The Nissan Foundation's support will help us bring the spirit of respect and goodwill embodied in the Olympic Games to classrooms across the country." said Mark Fowler, Deputy CEO of Tanenbaum, "Our World Olympics curriculum and trainings provide educators with practical tools to help students develop vital social and emotional skills and to learn to respect their differences, including religious differences."

The Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, founded close to 30 years ago and based in New York City, offers programs and resources providing educators, physicians and corporate leaders with practical tools for addressing differences and creating cultures that respect religious diversity. Tanenbaum was founded in 1992 by Dr. Georgette F. Bennett, in memory of her late husband, Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, a humanitarian interfaith leader.

For almost 25 years, Tanenbaum has expanded multi-cultural education to include religious diversity. Tanenbaum provides school and community educators with training, resources and curricula to address stereotypes and approach differences, including religious differences, with an attitude of respectful curiosity and an open-mindedness that will help them navigate the wider world.

Since September 2015, Tanenbaum has been responding to the further escalation of Islamophobia and other forms of hate that marginalizes religious communities in New York and beyond. Through a public education campaign called Combating Extremism, Tanenbaum creates and disseminates public education materials that address fear, misinformation, and prejudice. These monthly materials provide thought-provoking resources to counter divisive rhetoric, promote critical thinking and spread greater appreciation and understanding of our shared values amid diverse religious (and nonreligious) beliefs.

"It is a privilege to recognize the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding with a Nissan Foundation grant for the work it is doing to promote the value of racial, ethnic and cultural diversity," said Nissan Foundation President Scott Becker, who is also senior vice president, Administration, Nissan North America, Inc. "The Nissan Foundation has a proud history of recognizing and supporting organizations making a real impact in this regard."

The Nissan Foundation was created in 1992 as a thoughtful response to the three weeks of violent civil unrest that occurred near Nissan North America's then U.S. sales and marketing operations in Southern California.

In the 29 years since, the Nissan Foundation has awarded more than \$13 million to over 150 nonprofit organizations to support innovative programs that break down societal barriers and build inclusive communities through education and outreach. Grant recipients promote cultural diversity across a variety of arts, education, social and public programs in seven U.S. communities where Nissan operates.

Mark Fowler, Tanenbaum's Deputy CEO added, "The Nissan Foundation has been a valuable partner in our work to create spaces in our communities for mutual respect and understanding. We are thankful for their continued support."

Call for 2019 grant applicants

The Nissan Foundation is awarding a total of \$697,000 in grants to 28 nonprofit organizations for its 2021 grant cycle. The nonprofit recipients are located in areas where Nissan has an operational presence. Nissan Foundation grants are awarded annually; the next grants will be awarded in June 2022, when the Foundation celebrates its 30th year. For more information about the Nissan Foundation, the 2021 grantees and the grant application process, visit the [Nissan Foundation page](#).

About the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding

Based in New York City, Tanenbaum is a secular, non-sectarian nonprofit that promotes mutual respect with practical programs that bridge religious difference and combat prejudice in schools, workplaces, health care settings, and conflict zones. More information about Tanenbaum's offerings can be found here: <https://tanenbaum.org/>.

About the Nissan Foundation

Established in 1992, the mission of the Nissan Foundation is to build community through valuing cultural diversity. The Nissan Foundation is part of Nissan North America's commitment to "enrich people's lives" by helping to meet the needs of communities throughout the U.S. through philanthropic investments, corporate outreach sponsorships, in-kind donations and other charitable contributions.

About Nissan North America

In North America, Nissan's operations include automotive styling, engineering, consumer and corporate financing, sales and marketing, distribution and manufacturing. Nissan is dedicated to improving the environment under the Nissan Green Program and has been recognized annually by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year since 2010. More information on Nissan in North America and the complete line of Nissan and Infiniti vehicles can be found online at www.NissanUSA.com and www.InfinitiUSA.com, or visit the U.S. media sites NissanNews.com and InfinitiNews.com.

Tanenbaum promotes justice and builds respect for religious difference by transforming individuals and institutions to reduce prejudice, hatred and violence. More information about Tanenbaum's offerings can be found here: <https://tanenbaum.org/>

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