

For Immediate Release

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TANENBAUM AWARDED 2025-26 NISSAN FOUNDATION GRANT IN SUPPORT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

New York, NY, September 16, 2025: The Nissan Foundation named Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding a 2025-26 grant recipient, helping advance Tanenbaum's mission to create more inclusive learning environments where students of all backgrounds and beliefs feel safe, heard, and respected.

Through this grant, Tanenbaum will train over 500 students in skills of respectful curiosity, communication about different religious identities, and conflict transformation. Tanenbaum will partner with 9 in-service educators in NYC and elsewhere to form the first cohort of its [Network of Inclusive Educators](#) (NIE). Using mentorship and Tanenbaum resources, NIE members will develop a foundation of inclusive education practices to teach their K-12 students. This year's project will pilot a sustainable approach to student behavioral growth and community-building through teacher engagement. One of the goals of this pilot launch is to serve as the framework for future NIE cohorts.

Rev. Mark Fowler, Tanenbaum's CEO said, "At a time when the lines of inclusive education are blurred for schools across the country, Tanenbaum's work to create educational moments where students can respectfully explore and engage with the diversity among them is critical. We're helping young people understand that differences are a constant part of our world—and learning how to navigate those differences with empathy is essential. We're deeply grateful to the Nissan Foundation for supporting this work and our *Network of Inclusive Educators*."

For over 25 years, Tanenbaum has expanded culturally responsive education to include religious diversity. Tanenbaum provides school and community educators with training, resources, and curricula to address stereotypes and approach differences with an open-mindedness that will help students navigate the wider world.

"Since the Nissan Foundation was founded, we've seen and supported the power, importance and impact of cultural understanding and inclusivity," said Ali Tonn, executive director of the Nissan Foundation. "This year's grantees reflect the innovative thinking, compassionate empathy and deep community roots that are forging real progress in our country. We're incredibly proud to play a role in fueling their important work."

Since its founding in 1992, the Nissan Foundation has contributed nearly \$18 million to more than 150 nonprofit organizations across the country. Its mission is to break down societal barriers and foster inclusive communities through educational and cultural outreach in the seven U.S. regions where Nissan operates.

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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