

Hillel International Honors Rachel Leigh Hollander

Rachel Leigh Hollander was honored at the inaugural Hillel International: Global Assembly attended by over 500 of Rachel's colleagues in Orlando, FL on December 10, 2014. Rachel is the Associate Director of the University of Pennsylvania Hillel and was presented with the Richard M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence Award at the Global Assembly by Eric D. Fingerhut, President and CEO of Hillel International. This award is the highest award given by Hillel International for outstanding work and excellence.

Mr. Fingerhut described Rachel as a dynamic, talented and “sparkly” leader who brings both panache and an acute awareness to the unique abilities of each student and community within Hillel. The International Hillel President and CEO continued his many comments that included the following: “This colleague is warm and insightful, seeking to build personal relationships while at the same time challenging students to consider perspectives different than their own. Many students have noted and cherished their personal growth as of result of Rachel’s emphasis on ‘stepping into other people’s shoes.’ “

“This exemplar has a natural aptitude for teaching and brings Jewish education into all that she does. Weeks after she began at Hillel, she launched a class that, in the words of a colleague ‘totally blew away the other classes being offered by the different rabbis on campus.’ Her deep knowledge of Judaism coupled with her effective listening skills not only make her educational initiatives rich, but relevant for her student audience.”

“A trusted colleague, Rachel has proven herself an indispensable asset to her Hillel, by successfully managing responsibilities outside the purview of her formal role. When invited to help with alumni giving, she quickly closed a major gift from a young couple.”

Rachel joined University of Pennsylvania Hillel in 2010 as the Jewish Student Life Coordinator, and continued her progression as Director of Jewish Student Life, Assistant Director and then Associate Director of Penn Hillel.