



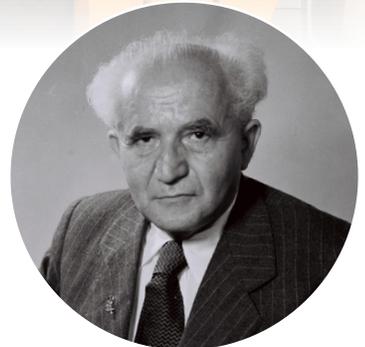
American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Zin Fellows

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



CONNECT TO THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL



The AABGU Zin Fellows Leadership Program is designed to create a community of passionate leaders in their 30s to 50s who are committed to helping further David Ben-Gurion's vision for Israel's southern desert region called the Negev. The program imparts insights into the challenges that lie ahead for the Negev and the knowledge of how to play a part in surmounting them. The result will be a connected group of leaders who return to their home communities inspired for continued engagement with AABGU and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

WHY THE NEGEV? WHY BGU? WHY NOW?

Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, believed that the future of Israel would be in the Negev, Israel's southern desert that comprises 60 percent of the country, yet less than 10 percent of the population.

Today, the development of the Negev is critical to Israel's security, economic development and transformation. The region's largest employer and a major catalyst for Negev development is Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU).

Founded by government mandate in 1969, BGU has turned a virtual wilderness into the region's driving force for social, economic and scientific success. Inspired by David Ben-Gurion, the University views the Negev as a living laboratory for finding solutions faced by the world's drylands and deserts. Its excellence in desert agriculture, water management, medical innovations, cyber security, and much more has further helped secure Beer-Sheva's position as one of world's top seven high-tech cities of the future.

With some 20,000 students spread across its campuses in Beer-Sheva, Sede Boqer and Eilat, BGU remains devoted not only to scientific advancement but also to humanitarian support—first, to the region's diverse community, and then to the world at large.

Continued on back >

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Each Zin Fellows cohort consists of 15 to 20 outstanding individuals from across the United States. Fellows must commit to two two-day gatherings in the United States and a week-long seminar in Israel over the course of 18 months.

The program's teachers are drawn from BGU's faculty as well as guest speakers from a wide range of disciplines. Through studying the Negev's history, topography, geography, demography, and sustainability, fellows come to understand and appreciate the unique role the Negev plays in the unfolding development of the State of Israel.

THE PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- David Ben-Gurion's role in putting the Negev on Israel's map (literally and figuratively)
- The historical significance of Israel's Negev region
- The Negev as a crossroads of ecology and cultures, religions and technology
- The latest desert research, including advancements in ecology, water sciences, food production, alternative energy, desert architecture, and green technologies
- Exposure to the BGU Innovation Ecosystem and startup nation entrepreneurship
- The transformation of the Negev from a peripheral "dumping ground" to prime real estate
- The Bedouin population—nomads in transition
- The critical roles BGU plays in transforming the region



COST

The Zin Fellows Leadership Program is free for participants, thanks to the generosity of AABGU donors. At the conclusion of the program, fellows are asked to give a minimum \$5,000 gift.

Participation in the AABGU Zin Fellows Leadership Program is by nomination only.



COHORT V PROGRAM DATES

January 2020

Orientation Conference Call

April 27 to 29, 2020

Gathering I (East Coast)

December 7 to 9, 2020

Gathering II (West Coast)

March 13 to 19, 2021

Seminar in Israel

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Go to www.aabgu.org/zin-fellows
or e-mail zinfellows@aabgu.org