



Media Contact:
Brian Jaffee, Executive Director
The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati
Tel: (513) 214-1201
bjaffee@thejewishfoundation.org

For Immediate Release

Jewish Foundation and Jewish Federation Bring Top-Flight Wexner Foundation Leadership Program to Cincinnati

The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati and Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, in partnership with the Wexner Heritage Program, are co-investing in bringing Wexner's nationally acclaimed leadership development program to Cincinnati next year. This premier institute is designed for a select group of individuals who will be invited to apply, and then chosen by the Wexner Foundation using proven criteria, including a demonstrated track record of leadership in the Jewish community, and the ability to shape and transmit a vision of Jewish life and communal responsibility.

20 Wexner Fellows will ultimately be chosen to participate following a competitive selection process. Through a series of shared experiences, intensive discussion, travel, study, and reflection, the Fellows will gain a deeper understanding of Jewish history and peoplehood, and a strengthened commitment to the future of the Cincinnati Jewish community.

"The Jewish Foundation and the Jewish Federation have a shared interest in cultivating and developing the next generation of leadership in our Jewish community," said Brian Jaffee, Executive Director of The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati. "We are very pleased to partner in bringing this prestigious program to Cincinnati, which connects with The Jewish Foundation's overall strategy of building leadership and capacity in local Jewish institutions. The Foundation has already made a contribution in promoting excellence in the ranks of our community's professional leaders, and this initiative will provide opportunities for local volunteer leaders to enhance their knowledge and skill sets."

Jewish Federation CEO Shep Englander added: "For Cincinnati to become a model community, we will need to continue to support and enhance the vision and dedication of our talented leaders. Several factors make the Wexner Heritage Program uniquely effective in advancing this goal. First, the faculty of professors, rabbis, and civic leaders are hand-selected from around the world both for their expertise and for their dynamism as teachers. Second, the rigorous selection process focuses on each candidate's community leadership experience, capacity and commitment."

Local Jewish communal leaders are encouraged to nominate their top volunteer leaders for this two-year program, which will begin in August 2013. The final group of 20 will be selected by the Wexner Heritage Program through a rigorous process of nomination, written application, and personal interviews. **Candidates must be nominated by Friday, October 19 to apply.** They must be approximately 30–45 years old, with personal, professional, and communal lives that reflect a history of leadership and commitment to the Jewish people. Information about the nomination process and program content is available through Jewish Foundation Director of Operations Eric Dauer, at (513) 214–1202 or edauer@thejewishfoundation.org

The Wexner Foundation was created in 1985 by Leslie Wexner, chairman and CEO of Limited Brands. The Wexner Heritage Program, a prestigious two-year program designed to develop and strengthen the skills of top Jewish communal leaders, has been conducted in 31 communities throughout North America and boasts more than 1,500 alumni who have gone on to become top leaders in their communities.

With a distinguished faculty of professors, rabbis, professionals and civic leaders, the Wexner Heritage Program will offer participants the opportunity to engage in this experience with peers from a broad range of community institutions. Upon completion of this program, participants will be offered opportunities to move into high-level leadership positions within the Cincinnati Jewish community.

This investment by the Foundation and Federation will extend beyond the life of the program as both institutions are committed to developing post-program initiatives that will sustain the commitment and involvement of the 2013–2015 Wexner Fellows.

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The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati invests in high impact, transformational initiatives in the areas of Unmet Basic Needs, Jewish Educational Opportunities, Leadership Development, Continuous Jewish Involvement and Israel Connection. Since its founding in 1995, the Foundation has significantly enhanced the cohesiveness and culture of the Cincinnati Jewish community, and has invested more than \$70 million in a vision to make Cincinnati one of America's great cities for Jewish life.