

Global Learning Partnership Faculty from US and Ethiopia Visit Oranim

Building international learning and teaching communities through technology and face-to-face encounters broadens perspectives, enhances appreciation of differences, and increases knowledge and innovation. Oranim International School hosted an international delegation of Global Learning Partnership faculty aimed at achieving these goals.



The Global Learning Partnership (GLP) works to establish innovative, collaborative 21st century teaching and learning communities in technologically-immersive global environments. In January, Oranim hosted a GLP delegation for 9 days, including faculty from: Ohio State University, Walsh University (Ohio), University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the Early Childhood Resource Center in Ohio, and the University of Gondar (Ethiopia). After their visit to Israel, the delegation continued to Italy.

Multicultural and Global Education

The delegation in Israel, led by Oranim International School's Jackie Levi-Atias, visited educational sites and programs that promote multicultural education, anti-racism, and global learning. They also toured Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Druze, and Bahai historical sites, as a window into the diversity of Israeli society and the richness of Israel's multilayered history.

Highlights of the visit included a meeting with faculty and students from Oranim's Michael Program, which aims to prepare students from the Ethiopian community for professional careers in education. This visit was particularly interesting for the faculty from Ethiopia, who are working to develop and redesign pre-professional and educational programs in Ethiopia.

GLP faculty also enjoyed visits with Oranim's Shaveh Center for Equity and Social Inclusion, and the Anti-Racism Forum at Oranim. These visits explored Oranim's work facilitating a multicultural learning environment which serves as a model for shared society.

Personal Relationships

At the heart of the GLP delegation were the personal relationships formed. As Angela Moses, Director of Professional Development/SPARK Replication at the Early Childhood Resource Center in Canton, Ohio, and a participant in this delegation, explained:

We speak over and over. . . about the power of relationships. While technology is such an amazing asset to the work we do and allows us to connect across the world; it doesn't take the place of meeting people, hearing their stories, exploring concepts and seeing their passion for their work. Our trip provided many opportunities for us to laugh, talk, break bread, ask difficult questions in a quest to understand, sit in the intimacy of a colleague's living room and share experiences. I will never forget these experiences.

Collaborative Projects

The delegation strengthened international partnerships that Oranim has been developing for years, and inspired new collaborations. The GLP has already developed several successful international courses, including *The Special Needs Course - Inclusion in Early Childhood: Practices and Experiences from American & Israeli Cultures* (begun in Spring 2013 and continuing) between the Ohio State University, Walsh University, and Oranim College. GLP has also facilitated several fruitful academic symposia and faculty exchanges.

Future collaborative projects discussed during the delegation include international courses and seminars on multicultural education and multiple educational theories such as Montessori, Reggio-Emilia, and Junkyard Kindergartens. We are excited to work together with our international colleagues to develop these projects.

Read more about Oranim's international academic collaborations [here](#).