

## Meet Etti Gordon Ginzburg, First Israeli Representative at EducationUSA Leadership Institute

*Oranim faculty member and International School academic consultant, Dr. Etti Gordon Ginzburg, was chosen as the first representative of Israel at the EducationUSA Leadership Institute in the USA in March. The Institute explored international education and graduate studies. Etti shares her exciting experiences in our newsletter.*



This March, Etti Gordon Ginzburg travelled to Portland, Oregon and Washington D.C. to participate in the EducationUSA Leadership Institute. The Institute is a new initiative of the U.S. Department of State to bring together academics and government officials from all over the world to learn more about the U.S. higher education system and to build international academic collaborations. Etti was excited to be the first (and so far only) person representing Israel at the Institute, and to represent Oranim College in this important international forum.

The U.S. Graduate Education: Organization and Internationalization Leadership Institute consisted of a pre-departure virtual training component, a DC-based three-day seminar, a 12-day academic residency at Portland State University, and a two- to four-month virtual follow-up together with other follow-up activities. 15 participants learned about U.S. graduate education and building international research collaborations.

### Personal Connections

An expert in American literature, Etti teaches in Oranim's English Language and Literature Department, and serves as academic consultant for the Oranim International School. She explains that for her, international education is about personal connections: "I care about people – no matter where they are from and what their background is." The Leadership Institute gave Etti the opportunity to connect with colleagues from South America to South East Asia, and from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds.

Some of the participants were government officials from countries that have no diplomatic relations with Israel, and Etti was proud to show them Israel and Israelis in a different, more positive light.

### **Developing Collaborations**

Etti also made professional connections that she hopes will be the beginning of fruitful international collaborations for Oranim. She reached out to Portland State University and Marylhurst University outside Portland, and discussed various collaboration opportunities with her international colleagues in the program. Now that she has returned home, Etti is working to transform these connections into meaningful collaborations.

Etti sums up her experience at the Institute: "I learned [about] wicked challenges and cutting edge medical education; . . . 3MT and credentials. But I also learned [about] friendship from Brazil, Gross National Happiness from Bhutan, kindness from Malawi and Cameroon, and gentleness from Sri Lanka."

### **Vision for International Education at Oranim College**

Etti's work at the Leadership Institute is part of her larger vision of international education at Oranim College. She explains that her vision is to "turn Oranim's multicultural campus into a vibrant international environment that shares its resources and welcomes global influences. With the right international exposure, Oranim's peripheral location can become an asset rather than a hindrance, and Oranim can literally become a lighthouse of academic and social excellence."

To achieve these aims, Etti has worked on various international collaborations, including with Bank St. College in the U.S. and the European Union's Erasmus+ program. She hopes that her experiences at the Leadership Institute will help her build new collaborations and expand existing collaborations in the U.S. and in graduate studies.