

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *AMIT Pre-Military Technological Junior College in Rehovot*

Year: *2018-2019 Academic Year*

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole rapport will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program: AMIT Pre-Military Technological Junior College in Rehovot

Year of activity: 2018-2019 Academic Year

Name of the report's writer: Ellen Avraham

Function of the report's writer: Grant Coordinator

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Number of active participants in the program: There were 83 students in the program this year.

Estimated number of impacted participants: 160 current students and alumni were impacted by the program.

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

The program ran as planned during the 2018-2019 academic year. There were 39 first year students and 44 second year students; they are all from low-income families and most lack strong parental role-models. The students studied electronics or electricity and power systems. The studies included both classroom lectures and hands-on work in laboratories. The students also benefitted from the personal empowerment component of the program, with many hours of empowerment and life skills training. The students participated in numerous seminars and learning retreats (see details below), the peer tutorial program with academically stronger students helping students in need of extra assistance with their studies, and the faculty mentor program, in which staff provided hours of one-on-one study and guidance to the program participants. Many students cited this level of personal interaction with the staff, with whom they formed strong relationships, as a key to their success in the program. Forty students lived in the dormitories and received three meals a day; all of the students received breakfast and a hot lunch daily.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

- A total of 44 young men graduated this year; 30 in the electronics program and 14 in the electricity and power systems program. All 44 successfully finished the full course of study and took the government's licensing exams. The graduates have all entered the military and are currently doing basic training; four are serving in the IDF's Logistics Corp, and the rest are in the Israeli Air Force.
- A pre-Rosh Hashana shabbaton was held on Sept. 14-15 in the town of Nes Harim, dedicated to getting to know classmates, defining expectations for the year, and examining the concepts of tshuva (repentance) and prayer.
- A three-day team building seminar was held on Oct. 2-4, with the theme of "Myself and My World". The students traveled to the north of Israel, hiking, engaging in outdoor training exercises, and getting to know each other.
- A shabbaton held in Givat Washington on Nov. 9-11 was devoted to the concept of personal responsibility and responsibility to one's community and society at large.
- A four-day seminar over the Chanukah vacation had a focus on overcoming personal obstacle and also Jewish survival over the generations. The students went to the south of Israel, doing a challenging 10 kilometer hike in the mountains.
- In January, there was a shabbaton in Jerusalem, during which the students examined the significance of Israel's capital city on a personal, religious and national level.
- A shabbaton in March for the second-year students was spent at the Beit El Yeshiva, with discussions about the upcoming Purim holiday and its meaning.
- A "Transition Journey" was held from April 28-30 for first-year students. The students hiked in northern Israel while discussing what they have gained so far in the program and their expectations for their second year.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

The program has succeeded in its goals, in that it has met or exceeded the success factors. Specifically, the goal of 80% of students successfully completing the two-year program and receiving certification as technicians or practical engineers. This year's graduating class, at 44 students, was 96% of the class that began the two-year program. This is especially impressive given that nationally, post-secondary vocational training programs have a dropout rate of 40%. All of the graduates took the government licensing exam, and 88% of them have passed on their first attempt. The goal of students enlisting in technological units of the Israeli Air Force has likewise been met; all 44 graduates have enlisted; 4 are serving in the IDF's logistical corps, and the rest are in the IAF, currently doing basic training and on track to serve in technological units. One has been earned an IAF award for being the outstanding soldier in his basic training unit. Regarding the third success factor, students finding meaningful employment at the end of their army service, the first graduating class finished their military service this April. Of the 20 men in that group, nine have decided to continue on working in their field in the IAF and five have already found employment in their

field, including jobs in high tech firms, IT, computer communications, data security and telecommunications.

When asked to summarize their experience in the program, the students frequently said that having the staff take a personal interest in them—not just in their studies but in their lives overall, being able to discuss issues of importance, the home visits made by the staff—helped them succeed. They also said that the staff helped them understand the importance of studying and working towards a goal, even if it seemed difficult and distant at first, and that the values education they received clarified the importance of being connected to their community and giving back to others.

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year: Next year the program is set to expand, with a third vocational track being offered to incoming first-year students— computer communications. Otherwise, it will continue with the current successful formula of providing high quality technological training with valuable life skills and personal empowerment, so that graduates will be certified technicians who will serve in the IAF's technical corps and be well situated for fulfilling professional careers after their military service.

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (**as PDF documents**)

Please join photos – as **JPG files** – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as **PDF document**.

Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.