



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMENIA

December 2, 2022

An effective partnership in implementing any program is formed through two factors: professionalism and empathy. I must say that I was more than pleased in seeing such high standards in both demonstrated by the family of Gordon College, and more specifically by Rhonda Sofer, Director of the International Center at Gordon College of Education and the head of this project.

In 2021, Gordon Academic College of Education and Junior Achievement of Armenia worked together in formulating and submitting a proposal to the World Bank for a project the purpose of which was: (i) to increase the capacity of the National Center for Education Development and Innovation (NCEDI) to formulate and manage key policies affecting general education quality and (ii) to improve the learning environment for delivery of STEM education in selected regions.

To this end, Armenia and Israeli experts, educators, administrators came together to study the current situation and to make suggestions for improvements. At the end of May, 20 educators from Armenia were hosted by the College in Haifa to study and learn from their experience.

The trip proved most helpful and brought out the best of professionalism in organizing the five-day seminars, in selecting topics, inviting speakers from the professorship, the government, setting schedules and most eagerly sharing experiences and know how. It was a very helpful trip and encouraged the participants to be together even during the free hours.

However, I must say that I was equally impressed and touched by the hospitality, the care, the attention, the respect each participant was shown by the staff of Gordon College. From the doorman, to the cafeteria workers, to the cleaners, to the professors, to the President of the College, it loudly screamed of human care. An incident that speaks volumes of the effort taken was when during one of the lunches, a staff member of the College was asked to play Armenian tunes on the piano under which the participants sang. What an afternoon to remember.

But the greatest test of human compassion was still in the making. During one evening, a gentleman from Armenia had a serious life-threatening health emergency. The immediate response in taking him to the hospital and caring for him there for days even after the departure of the group to Armenia proved to us all that altruism, which Gordon College shines of, is still what matters most.

I would be happy to answer any specific questions. You may contact me at email: armineor@gmail.com or call at +37498 40 79 32.

Sincerely,

Armine K. Hovannisian
Executive Director

