

American Pardes Foundation, Inc.

(New York, NY)

Spiritual Education Initiative

To support the Pardes Spiritual Education Initiative (PSEI) to bring its innovative model of spiritual education to new college campuses, pilot a new workshop model, expand staff training, and create and run 3-day retreats. PSEI, through combining text study, personal development, and creative expression, offers Jewish college students a way to engage Judaism through an intimate and holistic approach and to experience a deeper connection between their spiritual lives and Judaism. During the pilot year, PSEI was very successful in implementing this program at 6 university Hillels across the country and introducing over 100 professionals to this spiritually-based model of Jewish education; the workshops received extremely positive feedback from both students and staff. In the next two years, PSEI -- with the support of an additional US-based educator -- will bring PSEI to two dozen college campuses, pilot a new workshop model that explores the spiritual aspects of interpersonal relationships, conduct 3-day student spiritual retreats, support recently trained Hillel professionals, and train 100 new Hillel professionals in this emerging model of spiritual education.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$160,000 Jewish Life and Values Program: *Objective II*

Ruth Cummings Sorensen serves on the Board of Directors of Pardes Israel.

Total Award: \$160,000 over 2 years