2016 Trump Master Teacher Award

Trump Master Teacher Award

Hili Marom

Alex Vainberg

Gennady Akselrod

The winner of the 2016 Trump Master Teacher Award is **Alex Vainberg, a physics teacher at the Naomi Shemer High School in Gan Yavneh.** Alex, who has served as a physics and math teacher for the past 36 years, is also the leader of the teacher community under the auspices of the Weizmann Institute of Science and a mentor for new teachers. Honorable mention was awarded to Dr. Hili Marom, a math teacher at the Nofei Golan High School in Katzrin, and to Gennady Akselrod, a physics teacher at the Emek Harod Multidisciplinary High School and at the Virtual High School.

The Award Committee

Guy Ashkenazi, chemistry teacher at the Jerusalem Arts and Sciences High School, and the 2015 Trump Master Teacher Award winner

Tali Devora, math teacher at the Katzneslon High School in Kfar Saba, and a 2015 Trump Master Teacher honorable mention

Yaron Lehavi, teacher trainer and developer of physics materials, Weizmann Institute and David Yellin College

Tali Nahalieli, director of the Master’s program in teaching and learning and director of the Delta Program, Levinsky College

Shlomit Amihai, former director-general of the Education Ministry, and chair of the Hotam Program

Gali Shimoni, director of math at the Excellence in Teaching Institute, the Israeli Center for Excellence in Teaching

Michal Walter, physics teacher at the Amit Atidim Educational Campus in Or Akiva, and a 2015 Trump Master Teacher honorable mention

The Committee Decision to Award the 2016 Trump Master Teacher Award to Alex Vainberg

*With impressive expertise, Alex works magic in the worlds of math and physics, casting his spell upon his students. Alex believes in his students, setting ambitious goals with them, opening before them the doors to the world of advanced science. With uncompromising professionalism, he challenges his students’ abilities and encourages them to make an effort, to persevere, and to succeed.*

*His mentorship program allows every student to receive unlimited assistance and all students to take shared responsibility and succeed together. People say that Alex “raises physicists” from an early age. In truth, many students flock to his class, which has over time only grown bigger. Some of his students have already begun achieving international success.*

*Alex leads a regional teacher community where teachers work together to try to understand where students run into difficulties and how they think. Using sophisticated pedagogical tools, he helps his fellow teachers improve and perfect their teaching methods, thereby contributing to enhanced teacher professionalism and helping a new generation of excellent teachers to learn and advance.*

*For his belief in each and every student and his commitment to them all, his unparalleled professionalism, and his leadership of the teacher community, we hereby present the 2016 Trump Master Teacher Award to Alex Vainberg.*

**Video showing finalists for the 2016 Trump Master Teacher Award**

Part 2:

**In a moving ceremony, the Trump Master Teacher Award is presented to Alex Vainberg**

Israel has superb, indefatigable teachers who believe in their students’ capabilities and encourage them to maximize their potential. The talent, knowledge, and experience of these outstanding teachers constitute the cornerstone for any attempt to improve Israeli education.

Since 2012, the Trump Foundation has been awarding its Master Teacher Award, consisting of a NIS 100,000 prize, to teachers of math and the sciences who have demonstrated master teaching in practice. The Trump Foundation does this in order to publicize the professionalism and importance of these women and men.

On December 22, 2016 (Teacher’s Day), the 2016 Trump Master Teacher Award was presented to Alex Vainberg, a physics teacher at the Naomi Shemer High School in Gan Yavneh. Alex has served as a math and physics teacher for the last 36 years. He also leads a teacher community under the auspices of the Weizmann Institute of Science and mentors new teachers.

One of the participants of the ceremony, which was held at the school where Alex teaches, was none other than Prof. Michael Levitt, the 2013 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry. Alex’s students demonstrated several experiments, showing the audience what they had learned in physics and also explaining how these principles can solve real-world problems. After seeing one of these experiments, Prof. Levitt announced that he intends to promote work on joint efforts with Alex and present an experiment that his students at Stanford University will conduct.

The prime minister, who usually presents the award, was unable to attend, but sent a prerecorded message in honor of the ceremony and it award winner:

(video)

Itay Weissman, one of Alex’s students, asked permission to personally thank the teacher who opened the doors to a world he had never known before:

“At this school, all the teachers are great, but what makes Alex stand out is his warmth. Every student gets personal attention. He is always willing to listen. And it is this attitude that makes all the difference. I wish myself and future students that we continue to enjoy your presence for many years to come.”

After receiving the prize, Alex announced that he and his wife – also a teacher – had decided to donate a portion of the prize money to the school in order to help excelling students and to support students in need of assistance so that no boy or girl with the desire to succeed would be held back from going as far as possible.

The prize committee, composed of master teachers, teacher training experts, and senior Education Ministry personnel, provided its reasons for selecting Alex as the 2016 Trump Master Teacher Award winner:

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For more information about the award, click here.

Best wishes to Alex! We are proud of you and your incredibly inspirational work.