01/07/2020

The Mozes S. Schupf Fellowship Program

Subject: Letter of recommendation - Netanel Palmer

I have known Netanel for about 8 years. Netanel served under my command while completing officer training for the Intelligence Division of the Israeli Defense Forces. Netanel worked with me both as a cadet commander and my right-hand man in his role of training officer for entire training program. During the past year, I was delighted to again work with Netanel in the capacity of my position as Chief Executive Office for the non-profit organization Tovanot B’Hinuch (Insights in Education). Netanel participated in the complex task of writing the work guidelines for this organization. For about a decade, the organization had worked according to "oral tradition." Netanel managed process of writing the guidelines, devoting many hours to interviews and conversations with educators throughout Israeli society.

I would like to emphasize above all that Netanel brings a diverse set of high-quality values to everything he does. Netanel has strong capabilities for listening and deep understanding. In addition, in every role he has performed and every project he has undertaken, he always went beyond what was expected, with a sense of mission to further the issue for which he had taken responsibility. Examples of this can be seen in his approach to connecting religious and secular Jews. In our organization, we work with all parts of Israeli society, and Netanel sees each person as an individual, independent of any external traits, and works extensively to create bridges and connections. Another of Netanel’s essential qualities is the responsibility he takes in his work. Regardless of the project, whether a person’s life is at stake or is a minor issue, Netanel takes the job seriously, and strives to do his best work in the most efficient and effective way possible. For these reasons, Netanel took upon himself the role of being an envoy to develop values and leadership among youth in the Israeli Military Intelligence Division. This project has been a success and was even presented to senior officers in the Intelligence Division. This project, too, addresses many issues affecting the state of Israeli society, the promotion of discourse on values, and the like.

Netanel's professional skills are extensive and far more developed what would be expected for a man of his age. His capabilities are what prompted me to ask Netanel to work with me in the framework of the non-profit organization Insights in Education. In the projects he managed and was involved with in the military, as well as those he is currently undertaking with the non-profit, it is evident that Netanel demonstrates a high level of ability in research, self-education, and in-depth analysis of materials and their meanings. Netanel’s ability to think clearly and express himself, whether in oral or written form, is the highest I have ever encountered in the Intelligence Division. These capabilities will continue to serve him in the complex and unique doctoral program he has chosen, and which it seems he will complete successfully, in the near future.

As a team commander, Netanel was exceptional in terms of his age and rank, yet he succeeded in working with the other team commanders and even being a predominant force in influencing the content and manner of the course. Netanel stood out among his cadets in his leadership and command ability and excellent human relations. This was evident in the series of courses in which he worked in partnership with his cadets, with some of whom he is still in contact to this day.

In light of the combination of his set of values and his sense of responsibility for Israeli society, alongside Netanel's capabilities and the unique way in which he carries out every mission to which he has committed – small and large alike – I feel convinced that Netanel deserves the financial support that will enable him to successfully complete his dissertation and faithfully represent the values it promotes.

I would be happy to further expand upon and discuss the issues in this letter, if it would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Sharon Mayo

Chief Executive Officer of Tovanot B’Hinuch -- Insights in Education

(Lieutenant Colonel (Res.) in the Israeli Defense Forces)