



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Megan Manelli
201-977-2483
mmanelli@networkjhsa.org

JEFF DeGRAFF, “THE DEAN OF INNOVATION,” TO BE A FEATURED SPEAKER AT NETWORK FOR JEWISH HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY’S 2018 INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

March 10, 2018 [Paramus, NJ] – The Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (NJHSA) announced today that Jeff DeGraff, often called the Dean of Innovation, will be a featured speaker at its 2018 Conference: Unifying Our Human Service Voice. To be held in **Chicago, IL, April 29 to May 1, 2018**, the conference’s core themes are innovation, advocacy, best practices and collaboration.

“We are delighted that Jeff, a leader in driving organizational change through innovation, is speaking at our inaugural conference,” said Reuben Rotman, CEO of NJHSA, the leading voice for Jewish human service agencies in the US, Canada and Israel. “Jeff’s insights and creative and direct take on making innovation happen will be invaluable to both our members’ work and the development of the Network’s Center for Innovation and Research.”

Another featured speaker is **David Axelrod**, Senior Political Commentator, CNN, and Host, The Axe Files; Director, University of Chicago Institute of Politics; and Obama’s Chief Campaign Strategist and Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama (2009-2011). He will address advocacy today.

Jeff DeGraff is an advisor to Fortune 500 companies and a professor at the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business, where he created the innovations institute [Innovatrium](#). His simultaneously creative and pragmatic approach to innovation has led clients and colleagues to dub him the “Dean of Innovation.” In his new book, *The Innovation Code: The Creative Power of Constructive Conflict*, published in July 2017, he shows how to harness conflicts to create something better and new.

Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (NJHSA)

The Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies was formed in May 2017 when the two leading Jewish services organizations – the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies (AJFCA) and the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS) – joined forces. NJHSA is a membership association of more than 140 non-profit organizations in the United States, Canada and Israel. The Network’s members provide a full range of human services to the Jewish community and beyond, including healthcare, career, employment and mental health services, as well as programs for youth, families and caregivers, seniors, Holocaust survivors, immigrants and refugees, and persons with disabilities. The Network strives to be the leading voice for the sector, to be the go-to place for innovation, best practices, collaboration and advocacy, as well as to strengthen agencies to better serve their communities. Visit <http://www.networkjhsa.org> for more information.

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