

DRUZE FUTURE TECH ENGINEERS ARE ON THE PATH TO A CAREER

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3 months ago, a program to make the high-tech profession accessible to the Druze young community began operating, at the initiative of the leader of the Druze community **Shaykh Mowafaq Tarif** and the religious Council, **AppleSeed non-profit, Social Finance Israel, Koret non-profit and Nvidia**. A unique program has been prepared for training Druze for high-tech professions and incorporating them into work and giving them a loan that is repaid from the monthly salary.

AppleSeed specializes in creating, managing and operating technological programs throughout the country, which combine professional trainings.

We met with the new future tech engineers in a gathering at the Druze religious council in Kfar Yasif. Present at this gathering were **Shaykh Mowafaq Tarif**, the Imams **Tufik Halabi**, **Bader Badaria**, **Yones Amasha**, former Minister **Salah Tarif** and other dignitaries together with **Dafna Gever-Lifshitz** CEO of



AppleSeed, **Yaron Neudorfer** CEO and founder of Social Finance Israel, **Yoram Yaacobi** former CEO of Microsoft Israel and currently advisor to start-ups and Chairman of AppleSeed who provided an interesting lectures to all.

The first person to speak was **Shaykh Mowafaq Tarif** who said "I am happy to see in the audience a representative sample of the Druze society; participants at the course are not only from different villages they are a diversified and representative population. Religious and non-religious, men and women. We all consider the project as a leap point for the future generation of the community seeking to be part of the global world but, with feet firmly on the ground and deep roots. The fact that the meeting today, and some of the meetings are held in a holy and spiritual place, is not a contradiction, on the contrary, it is our natural connection as a community that knows its roots and its past but is living in the present and planning the future".

"We, as the leadership, will do everything to create opportunities, provide any educational resource, build bridges and make the necessary connections so our children will conquer more summits. This is the place to make the Druze community's voice heard again before the decision-makers in the country, to increase the training activities, to pave more routes and also, sometimes, to recalculate a route."



Tal Levin: "We are a month and a half into the program and are receiving applications for the next cohort, we felt the connection to the religious council, a connection that provided the push to the young people believing that there is a program which will lead them forwards and it was very significant to us, that they opened the door to more young people".

"The group is composed of 3 females and 19 males and studies are conducted in Zoom. The senior staff at SFI are partners and supporters of the program, Druze tech engineers support our students, whoever wants to register to the program can do it on our website".

Adv. **Raid Shenan**, senior member of the Druze religious council: "This project would not have been set up without the good people who care about the future of our community and its young people headed by Shaykh Mowafaq Tarif the leader and the friends from the Israeli society who want to support and help develop the Druze young people".

"The future is in high-tech and if we do not integrate today into high-tech and technology, we will find ourselves irrelevant in a few decades thus, we come together to ensure the success of this program and we will help in sustaining the next one, we will promote our young people".

Adv. **Nisreen Abu Asla** from Beit Jan: "I am part of a company who creates social impact bonds to integrate more people into high-tech, this is a model of funding based on success, you invest in society and make an impact via investments".

"Minorities have a plethora of barriers and gaps, but the effort and investment promote the young and their environment. It was not simple to introduce this program, which will impact greatly on the Druze community but there was faith and it succeeded. anything innovative in the community is a model to emulate and inspire, and I welcome that."

Leena Hir Amar, engineer at Intel Haifa: "We do not lack young people with good minds that want to integrate into high-tech, I am glad we reached this day, our world is geared towards high tech and there are plenty of companies that accept the engineers and there is room for all, there is great satisfaction".

"High tech is a field open to women so, you men and women go for it, it means to be part of the developing world".

[Video link](#)