

Florida Jewish Journal / Miami-Dade Jewish News

# Miami-Dade College partnering with Tel Aviv University for Startup Nation Conference



The inaugural Startup Nation Conference on May 17 is a direct result of a Project Interchange seminar for Miami Entrepreneurs last year and a Memorandum of Understanding between Miami-Dade College and Tel Aviv University. Pictured last year from left are Oren Simanian and Leandro Finol signing the documents for this Memorandum of Understanding at MDC last year. (FPG file photo)



By **Sergio Carmona · Contact Reporter**  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

MAY 11, 2016, 2:59 PM

**T**he Idea Center at **Miami Dade College** is collaborating with Tel Aviv University in Israel to host the inaugural Startup Nation Conference on May 17.

This conference, taking place at MDC's Wolfson Campus , 300 NE 2nd Ave., Building 1, Second Floor, in Miami from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., is intended to serve as an opportunity for people to understand Israel's tech entrepreneurial ecosystem while connecting Miami's tech and innovation community with that of Tel Aviv's. It will feature more than 20 speakers, including some of Israel's most successful

entrepreneurs.

ADVERTISING



This conference was born from a John S. and James L. Knight Foundation-supported educational trip and seminar to Israel organized by Project Interchange, an educational institute of the American Jewish Committee, in March 2015. The trip's delegation, which included The Idea Center's executive director Leandro Finol, learned from the country's thriving tech and innovation sector while sharing best practices and making connections. As a result of this trip, MDC signed a Memorandum of Understanding in August 2015. This agreement, between Tel Aviv University's Entrepreneurship Center (StarTau) and The Idea Center, is intended to help enhance Miami's entrepreneurship ecosystem and link Israel's high-tech and start-up communities to resources and people in Miami.

Finol noted in a media advisory prepared by MDC: "During my visit to Israel, I had the opportunity to interact with some of the world's best problem solvers. Miami will benefit from discovering their methods of coming up with creative solutions and succeeding at resolving the most unsolvable issues in our community."

Matt Haggman, program director of the Knight Foundation, noted in the MDC media advisory: "The goal of the conference is to build a bridge between Tel Aviv and Miami's own budding startup community."

Visit [StartupNationConference.com](http://StartupNationConference.com) to register and for more information on the conference including speakers and agenda.

Copyright © 2016, Sun Sentinel