



OTI's third student group to travel to the Middle East since the group was founded, pictured above before embarking on their journey. Photo courtesy of Social Sciences.

OLIVE TREE INITIATIVE

INVESTIGATE

The Olive Tree Initiative is a religiously and ethnically diverse group of UCI students who promote education and dialogue on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Each year, a group of OTI students travels to the Middle East where they hear perspectives from academics, religious authorities, community leaders, politicians and activists who live in the region.

The mission of the journey is to gain knowledge beyond second hand information and mainstream media reports and to bring what they learn back to the campus and community.

INNOVATE

Throughout the year, OTI hosts events on and off campus in synagogues, churches, mosques, retirement communities and community centers to share their experience. The group hosts weekly campus dialogue sessions, monthly community forums and an annual education week and UC-wide student leadership summit.

IMPACT

Founded in 2007, OTI has raised more than \$350,000 to fund their dialogue and experiential education work. The program has been highly lauded for their efforts, receiving five major awards and recognition by the U.S. Summit for Global Citizen Diplomacy and State Department as a top citizen diplomacy program. There are now active OTI groups operating on UC Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Los Angeles with additional branches in the works at other UCs and universities nationwide. OTI's work served as the foundation of the new UCI undergraduate certificate program in conflict analysis and resolution which offers academic credit for work leading up to and following the Middle East trip. The program's first graduates are already working at NGOs and in politics in the Middle East and the U.S.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A gift to OTI has the power to transform individuals and communities and truly make a difference. Contact us today or visit us online at www.socsci.uci.edu to learn how past donations have helped fund our future leaders.