UNIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE

University of the People (UoPeople; www.UoPeople.org) is the world's first tuition-free, non-profit, online academic institution dedicated to opening access to higher education globally for all qualified individuals, despite financial, geographic or societal constraints.

Founded in 2009 by educational entrepreneur Shai Reshef, UoPeople is affiliated with the **United Nations GAID**, the **Clinton Global Initiative,** and **Yale Law School ISP.** UoPeople has signed collaborative partnership agreements with **New York University (NYU)** to accept students; and with **Hewlett-Packard (HP)**, through the Catalyst Initiative, to provide student internship opportunities. UoPeople offers undergraduate programs in Business Administration and Computer Science. To date, more than 1500 students from 132 countries have been accepted. Of students polled consecutively each term, 95% would recommend UoPeople to a peer.

The organization has gained the widespread support of more than **1,000,000 people on Facebook** and over 1,000 articles favorably mentioning UoPeople, including The New York Times, NPR, The Washington Post, CNN, Forbes, The Chronicle of Higher Education and more. In addition, Shai Reshef has received numerous awards on behalf of UoPeople including being one of Fast Company's 100 Most Creative People in Business; chosen by 3 million Huffington Post Readers as "The Ultimate Game Changer in Education;" nominated as one of Wired Magazine's "Smart List 2012: 50 People Changing the World;" and invited to speak at worldwide events including his recent talk at TEDxKC.

UoPeople is able to offer quality education tuition-free to qualified individuals by thriving on a lean overhead which combines open source technology, Open Educational Resources, peer to peer learning, and the support of volunteering academics. To date, **2,900 volunteers** have offered to help the University. Many of these volunteers make up the University's distinguished scholastic leadership which includes seasoned professionals from Columbia, Harvard, INSEAD, NYU, Rutgers, Oxford and Yale, among others. UoPeople also selects instructors and course developers from its large pool of volunteers. Those that are selected for these positions receive a modest honorarium to ensure a contractual commitment.

With its tuition-free online programs, University of the People is opening access to higher education for all those constrained, as well as building a scalable and replicable model capable of changing the very nature of higher education. The non-profit UoPeople has managed to succeed in cutting down almost the entire cost of higher education, and does not charge for tuition or books/materials. All that is asked is for students to pay a one-time application processing fee ($50) and, beginning with all new applications created from August 27, 2012, subsequent modest examination processing fees ($100) levied per course. There are no other fees whatsoever.

UoPeople strives to ensure, in keeping with its mission, that no qualified individual is excluded for financial reasons. To assist students in financial need, UoPeople has dedicated student scholarship funds. Corporate sponsors include **Hewlett-Packard**'s sponsorship of 100 HP Scholars as part of the UoPeople Women Scholarship Fund; and **Intel Foundation**'s sponsorship of women students from Haiti. Soon, UoPeople will launch a Micro-Scholarship Portal, the first of its kind, to allow donors to contribute to individual students.

Thus far, the University has been funded by its founder, **Shai Reshef**; with grants from several foundations including **The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Kauffman Foundation, The Hewlett Foundation, Google for Non-Profits, The Goodman Family Foundation,** and **The Passport Foundation**, among others. With **$6 million (US) more,** the University will be self-sustainable. In its quest to reach sustainability, UoPeople is currently in discussions with several foundations regarding grants, as well as seeking philanthropic and corporate donations.