Hope Chernak has been named chief program officer (CPO) of the MJCCA. Hope has been a part of the MJCCA staff for the past year, serving as the executive director of JUMP-S P A R K, the Atlanta Jewish Teen Initiative (A J T I). AJTI is a partnership program with the MJCCA, Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, and the Atlanta Rabbinical Association.

“I am pleased to welcome Hope to her new capacity at the MJCCA,” said MJCCA CEO Jared Powers. “Hope’s dedication of experience working within the Jewish community, her passion for sports, and her extensive background in Jewish education makes her a perfect fit for this position.”

“I am thrilled to accept this position as CPO of the MJCCA,” said Hope. “One of my primary objectives as incoming CPO is to enhance the MJCCA’s comprehensive array of programs and services, which includes building on the already exceptional outreach programming for the greater Atlanta community.”

Before moving to Atlanta, Hope spent 15 years in New York City, serving as the managing director of the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY), as well as the director of Youth and Informal Education & Israel Programs at Temple Shmaur Tefla. Hope grew up in Orlando, Florida. She spent eight summers on staff at Camp Coleman. Her career in Jewish communal work began at age 16, at the Roth ICC of Greater Orlando, as a day counselor.

Hope brings a unique enthusiasm for sports to this role. She was a collegiate athlete receiving scholarships for basketball, soccer, and cross country. She earned a B.S. in business administration, with a concentration in management and marketing, at Webber International University. She went on to earn an M.A. in religious education, at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and the title Reform Jewish Educator. Hope was a 2016 recipient of the Grinspoon North American Award for Excellence in Jewish Education.

Hope Chernak
(Photograph: Jennifer Sami)