Ori De-Levie has contributed to the State of Israel’s security for years, as a fighter pilot. As a successful entrepreneur, Mr. De-Levie is contributing to the education of the next generation of leaders and businessmen, through a unique scholarship program at IDC Herzliya, of which he is an alumnus.

Mr. De-Levie was born 58 years ago to a farming family in the Jezreel Valley community of Kfar Yehoshua, which his grandparents helped found. His father, who as a child survived World War II in the Netherlands, immigrated to Israel, and together with his wife, whom he met during his military service, established a farm in Kfar Yehoshua. Mr. De-Levie’s father was awarded the Medal of Distinguished Service following the 1973 Yom Kippur War, for rescuing wounded soldiers and demonstrating courage under fire.

Mr. De-Levie has carried on his family’s tradition of building and defending Israel, and in 1977 graduated from the Israeli Air Force’s pilots training course. He went on to serve as a fighter pilot for 10 years, and served as deputy commander of an F-16 squadron in his last position. He continued flying F-16 jets as an IAF reservist for 20 years, concluding his service at the rank of colonel. In November 2009, he was awarded the IAF Medal of Honor, reserved for airmen with at least 25 years of active flying in the Air Force.

Mr. De-Levie also founded and heads business ventures in the agriculture and food industries, and has partnered with fellow IAF veterans Iftach and Yishai Spector in ISYS Operational Management Systems, which develops time management software for intensive work environments. For the past 25 years, he has been residing in Moshav Be’it Halevi with his wife and six children.

At the age of 40, Mr. De-Levie enrolled in the second class of Efi Arazi School of Computer Science at Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, from which he graduated with honors. This, however, did not conclude Mr. De-Levie’s relationship with IDC Herzliya, and in 2000 he founded the “Keren Or” (Ray of Light) scholarship program for undergraduate computer science or business administration studies.

The program strives to assist applicants whose socio-economic background has denied them the opportunity to meet the admission requirements posed by higher education institutions to realize their potential. “Keren Or” participants are motivated young men and women, with strong academic potential and learning abilities, who have completed full military or national service. The program aims to facilitate participants’ integration in the high-tech industry or the business sector, in challenging and rewarding positions.

In recognition of his contribution to promoting higher education among youths from a disadvantaged socio-economic background, who are on their way to becoming part of Israel’s technological and business leadership, Ori De-Levie is hereby named an Honorary Fellow of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya.