



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Office of Communications and Public Relations**  
**Press Release**  
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## **Ramapo College Alumna Begins Peace Corps Service in Morocco**

MAHWAH, N.J.—Ramapo College alumna Andreina Santamaria has been accepted into the Peace Corps and has departed for Morocco to begin training as a youth development volunteer. Santamaria, 22, will live and work in a community to empower young people in her community in acquiring life and leadership skills.

Santamaria is the daughter of Jorge and Yamileth Santamaria and a graduate of Hackensack High School in Hackensack, New Jersey. She earned a B.A. in international studies with a minor in human rights and genocide studies in May 2016 from Ramapo College.

During the first three months of her service, Santamaria will live with a host family in Morocco to become fully immersed in the country's language and culture. After acquiring the necessary skills to assist her community, Santamaria will be sworn into service and assigned to a community in Morocco, where she will live and work for two years with the local people and partner organizations on sustainable, community-based development projects that improve the lives of people in Morocco and help Santamaria develop leadership, technical and cross-cultural skills that will give her a competitive edge when she returns home. Peace Corps volunteers return from service as global citizens well-positioned for professional opportunities in today's global job market.

Santamaria joins the 187 New Jersey residents currently serving overseas in the Peace Corps and more than 5,000 New Jersey residents who have served in the Peace Corps since 1961.

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*About the Peace Corps: The Peace Corps sends the best and brightest Americans abroad on behalf of the United States to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Volunteers work at the grassroots level to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. Through their service, volunteers gain a unique cultural understanding and a life-long commitment to service that positions them to succeed in today's global economy. Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961, nearly*

*220,000 Americans of all ages have served in 140 countries worldwide. For more information, visit [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov)*

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes viewed as a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.