



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
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Readings at Ramapo Series Virtual Event Presents Internationally Acclaimed Poet and Activist Carolyn Forché

MAHWAH, N.J. -- As part of the Readings at Ramapo Series, internationally acclaimed poet Carolyn Forché will be giving a reading virtually on Monday, November 16 from 2:15-3:30 p.m. The event, followed by a question and answer session, is free and open to the public. Those interested in participating can log on to <https://ramapo.webex.com/ramapo/j.php?MTID=mc64d135c4f0507d9ad0a9601acab2e4d>

Born in Detroit, Michigan in 1950, poet, teacher and activist Carolyn Forché has witnessed, thought about, and put into poetry some of the most devastating events of twentieth-century world history. According to Joyce Carol Oates in the *New York Times Book Review*, Forché's ability to wed the "political" with the "personal" places her in the company of such poets as Pablo Neruda, Philip Levine, and Denise Levertov.

Forché is perhaps best known for coining the term "poetry of witness." In her ground-breaking anthology, *Against Forgetting: Twentieth-Century Poetry of Witness* (1993), Forché described the difficulties of politically-engaged poetry: "We are accustomed to rather easy categories: we distinguish between 'personal' and 'political' poems...The distinction...gives the political realm too much and too little scope; at the same time, it renders the personal too important and not important enough. If we give up the dimension of the personal, we risk relinquishing one of the most powerful sites of resistance. The celebration of the personal, however, can indicate a myopia, an inability to see how larger structures of the economy and the state circumscribe, if not determine, the fragile realm of the individual."

The winner of numerous literary awards, Forché is currently University Professor at Georgetown University where she directs the Lannan Center for Poetics and Social Practice. More information about her work can be found at <https://blueflowerarts.com/artist/carolyn-forche/>

For information about this event, please email Ramapo Professor of Literature Lisa Williams at liwillia@ramapo.edu

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college and is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. The College is ranked #1 among New Jersey public institutions by College Choice, has been named one of the 50 Most Beautiful College Campuses in America by *CondéNast Traveler*, and is recognized as a top college by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Kiplinger's*, Princeton Review and *Money* magazine, among others. Ramapo College is also distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by *CollegesofDistinction.com*, boasts the best campus housing in New Jersey on *Niche.com*, and is designated a "Military Friendly College" in *Victoria Media's Guide to Military Friendly Schools*.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, data science, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to master's degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Creative Music Technology, Data Science, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education, as well as a post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice.