



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Media and Public Relations
Press Release
May 3, 2021

Contact: Angela Daidone
adaidon1@ramapo.edu

Ramapo College of New Jersey Hosts Global Social Work Symposium; Partners with International Universities

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Ramapo College of New Jersey recently hosted the Global Social Work Symposium in partnership with Haifa University (Israel), Universidad de Caldas (Colombia), and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana). The topic of the two-day symposium was "Innovative Teaching Strategies in the Time of COVID19: Global Perspectives on Social Work Education."

The symposium was born out of collegial conversations around the world and the experiences of teaching social work during the Covid-19 pandemic. In all, 20 individual sessions were conducted by 41 presenters from various institutions in the US, Israel, Portugal, Colombia and Spain. Discussions included innovative practices and potential collaboration methods for research and teaching.

Ramapo Associate Professor of Social Work John P. McTighe, Ph.D., was among the symposium coordinators.

"At a time when social work educators the world over are compelled to respond nimbly and creatively to the demands of teaching our students under unprecedented conditions, creating and hosting the Global Social Work Symposium was one step that we could take at Ramapo College to foster that essential conversation by bringing together a global community of scholars to share insights and best practices," said McTighe, who also serves as convener and director of the undergraduate social work program at Ramapo. "More than ever, it is essential that we cultivate a global consciousness and an awareness of our interdependence. The Covid-19 pandemic has offered a stark reminder that the social work profession around the world needs to claim the power of its voice and the leadership role it has to play in fostering the health and well-being of the communities we serve."

Yael Latzer, D.Sc., Dean of the School of Social Work, University of Haifa, Israel, applauded the collaboration among social work professionals, especially throughout the last year. “During Covid-19, the vitality and effectiveness of the social work profession was very prominent,” said Latzer, one of the symposium coordinators. “The use of online communication proved to be significant to connect with each other and exchange opinions share ideas beyond geographical distance, and will continue to provide a platform for young researchers to present their work and a great opportunity for academic and research collaboration.”

Mark Lamar, Associate Professor of Professional Practice and Executive Director of Field Education at Rutgers University School of Social Work, was among the presenters. “My colleagues and I cannot thank Ramapo enough for the pre-conference support and in-session conversation,” said Lamar, who, with other Rutgers faculty, presented “Using Simulation to Teach MSW Generalist MSW Students Engagement and Assessment Skills.”

For a list of presenters and topics, visit <https://www.ramapo.edu/international/gsws21/>

A Symposium Proceedings will be published and posted to this web page in late September 2021.

###

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.