

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **AIDS QUILT TO BE DISPLAYED AT RAMAPO COLLEGE**

(Mahwah) – The AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed in Friends Hall on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey Wednesday, November 30 through Friday, December 2 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. The display is in recognition of World AIDS Day, an international day of action on HIV and AIDS that takes place each year on December 1.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a 54-ton tapestry that includes more than 45,000 panels dedicated to more than 88,000 individuals. The first 40 panels of the quilt were displayed at San Francisco City Hall in 1987. In addition to national displays, most notably in Washington, D.C., there have been tens of thousands of smaller displays across the country. Ten panels of the quilt will be on display at the College.

Ramapo College will sponsor several events in conjunction with the display:

- Opening Ceremony, Wednesday, November 30, 12:30 – 2 p.m. There will be an introduction to the quilt's history, guest speakers and a reading of the names on the panels displayed.
- Alumni Reception to view the quilt, November 30, 6:30 p.m., SC-219.
- A Day Without Art, Thursday, December 1.
- Faculty presentation on the impact of AIDS, December 1, 1 p.m., SC-219.
- Wear Red for World AIDS Day, December 1.
- AIDS Awareness Coffeehouse, December 1, 7:30 to 11 p.m.
- Feminist Art Show, Friday, December 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Closing Ceremony, December 2, 8 p.m.

(more)

A number of Ramapo College student clubs and administrative offices will sponsor the event, including The Women's Center, Office of Student Development, Feminists United, Ramapo Pride, International Students Organization, Various Visual Artists, PUNK Club, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Inter Greek Senate, Educational Opportunity Fund Service Corp, Sigma Delta Tau, Tau Delta Phi and Friends of Ramapo.

On June 27, 1987, the NAMES Project displayed the first 40 panels of the Quilt at San Francisco City Hall. Four months later, in October, the first 1,920 panels were displayed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The Quilt quickly became a vehicle to visually illustrate the numbers lost to the AIDS epidemic as well as a tool to bring names to statistics. The Quilt has served to open frank dialogue about the epidemic, to help families and communities heal from their losses and to motivate individuals to take action to contain the spread of HIV and care for those living with the disease.

For more information, call Lisa Castellano, graduate assistant for the Women's Center, 201.684.7238 or the Women's Center, 201.684.7468.

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