



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Relations

Press Release

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**GAYLE AND PAUL GROSS FOUNDATION AWARDS \$250,000 CHALLENGE GRANT TO
THE CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES AT RAMAPO COLLEGE**

*Center will be renamed **The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies***

The Gayle and Paul Gross Foundation awarded a five-year, \$250,000 challenge grant to the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Ramapo College of New Jersey. The Center, established in 1990 and part of the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies, will be renamed The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

“This generous gift from Gayle and Paul, long-time supporters of the Center, will foster expanded programming for students, teachers and the general public in line with the College’s mission of community engagement,” said Peter P. Mercer, Ph.D., president of Ramapo College. “It is part of our ongoing effort to encourage tolerance and peaceful conflict resolution, to raise awareness of genocide and to promote the democratic outcomes of a liberal education.”

The Center’s programming focuses on the history and lessons of the Holocaust, the genocide in Armenia and Darfur and other conflicts. The Center, a member of the Association of Holocaust Organizations, participates with similar organizations in programs and outreach efforts under the New Jersey State Commission on Holocaust Education.

“Gayle and I have been associated with the Center for a long time and are firm believers in the ongoing need to ensure that all people, especially school children, know about the Holocaust and the impact of hatred and bigotry in our societies,” said Mr. Gross.

The Center’s Gumpert Teacher Workshops provide secondary school instructors with strategies and lesson plans for incorporating the Holocaust and genocide studies into their classroom studies. The lecture and film series, held in collaboration with other campus and community groups, bring scholars, filmmakers and policy leaders to campus for discussion. All events are free and open to the public.

Paul and Gayle Gross founded the Gross Foundation which supports Jewish organizations and causes in the arts, human services and education. Formerly of Hillsdale, N.J., they reside in West Palm Beach, Florida. Their daughter, Lauren, has served on the Center’s advisory board for several years and is currently vice-chair.

To learn more about the Center, visit <http://www.ramapo.edu/holocaust/>

Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 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 seven 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.