

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
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Rigoberta Menchu, 1992 Nobel Peace Prize Winner and Activist for Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to Speak at Ramapo College of New Jersey on September 24

(Mahwah) Nobel Peace Prize Winner Rigoberta Menchu will speak at Ramapo College of New Jersey on Wednesday, September 24 at 1 p.m. in the H-Wing Auditorium. Menchu, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her work in defending the rights of indigenous peoples, will deliver an address entitled *Student Engagement: Towards a Promising Future*.

Awarded the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, Menchú is a member and activist of the Maya K'iche' ethnic group in Guatemala. She is a leading advocate of Indian rights and ethno-cultural reconciliation in Guatemala and the Western Hemisphere. Her testimonial book, *I, Rigoberta Menchú*, won the prestigious *Casa de las Américas* award in 1983 and has been translated into a dozen languages. The book, which she narrated to anthropologist Elizabeth Burgos, tells the story of her people and earned Menchu international recognition. She later published the autobiographical work, *Crossing Borders*, in addition to stories inspired by Mayan history and traditions. Named an Ambassador of Goodwill by UNESCO, Menchu has received numerous international honors and awards, including more than 30 honorary degrees from universities around the world.

The event is cosponsored by the School of Social Science and Human Services, the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies and the American Democracy Project. It is free and open to the public.

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 6,000 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 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.