

Ramapo College Holds Vigil for Victims of Nepal Earthquake

MAHWAH, N.J. – Ramapo College held a memorial service and candlelight vigil for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Nepal.

The service included the playing of the Nepal National Anthem and personal accounts by several of Ramapo's 18 Nepalese students. Rajesh Adhikari, director of international students' and scholars' services, introduced a short video showing before and after images of the areas affected by the earthquake.

"The devastation is incomprehensible," said Adhikari. "More than eight million people have been affected, with 1.2 million left homeless."

Ramapo College President Peter Mercer, who met with the Nepalese students earlier in the week, said: "We have an obligation to do all we can to support the people of Nepal because we have 18 brothers and sisters living with us at Ramapo College."

The memorial service was followed by a candlelight vigil at the Arch.

The Student Government Association, Counseling and Health Services, the Office of the Provost, the Roukema Center for international Education and other departments have coordinated a "Stay Strong Nepal" campaign, including support groups, summer housing provisions and fundraising efforts.

For more information on how to donate, visit <https://life.indiegogo.com/fundraisers/nepal-earthquake-relief-fund-rcnj>

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category, 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 eight 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.