



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
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Jane Addams Papers Project at Ramapo College Receives \$325K in Grants to Continue Digitizing Historical Works

MAHWAH, N.J. — The Jane Addams Paper Project has received two significant grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and National Archives/National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The grants of \$200,000 and \$125,000 respectively will support the project's work at Ramapo College. The Jane Addams Papers started work at Ramapo in September 2015, with the goal of creating a digital edition of the correspondence and writings of the founding mother of American social work.

"We are delighted to have the support of the NEH and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for the Jane Addams Papers Project. They support two aspects of the project's work, the publication of our digital edition (<https://digital.janeaddams.ramapo.edu/>) and editing and research for Volume 4 of the *Selected Papers of Jane Addams, 1901-1913*," said Cathy Moran Hajo '85, Editor and Director of the Jane Addams Papers Project at Ramapo.

Ramapo students from each of the College's five schools are the backbone of the digital edition, Hajo said. "We have trained more than 50 students since the project started to read 19th and 20th century handwritten documents, transcribe the texts and describe them, adding subjects, identifying people, organizations and events. Students are gaining experience doing historical research, analyzing primary sources and developing metadata," adding that many of students have "caught the bug" and gone on to graduate programs in digital humanities, library science and history.

Susan Hagen, Dean of the Ramapo's School of Humanities and Global Studies, explained that students who worked on the project have said that after graduation, potential employers were impressed with the technical and analytical skills that they gained through that experience. "Their experiences demonstrate the relevance of humanities skills to a wide variety of careers. The project showcases the continued importance of the humanities and especially of public

history to our society today” Hangen said. “It is rare for a public institution to have the opportunity to host such a prestigious project and we are grateful to Cathy for bringing this to Ramapo.”

Students are currently working on documents in 1922 and 1923, tracing Addams's world tour and her efforts for peace. Grant-funded editors Stacy Pratt McDermott '14 and Victoria Sciancalepore are proofreading material from 1920 for mounting on the digital edition in the near future. Work continues on Volume 4 of the *Selected Papers of Jane Addams*, which covers her work for woman suffrage, child labor legislation, and her forays into politics in the 1912 presidential election. Because of the digital nature of the project, students and staff have been able to work remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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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, 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, Data Science, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.