



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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QuickTakes!

Ramapo College Wins National Grant to Support the Jane Addams Papers Project

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The National Historic Publications and Records Commission, a department of the National Archives, has awarded the Jane Addams Papers Project a one-year grant of \$108,240 to 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 have made a great start by scanning the documents from microfilm and mounting images and transcriptions online," said Cathy Moran Hajo, Editor and Director of the Jane Addams Papers Project at Ramapo. "Students at Ramapo have the opportunity to learn about digital history and historical research by working at the Addams Papers. They describe and transcribe documents, and research and write descriptions of the people, organizations, and events mentioned in the documents to help readers understand the content. Students are also gaining experience in public history work, by blogging and using social media to reach the general public."



NHPRC funds for 2016-2017 will support the continuation of work on the digital edition, and will allow the project to expand its staff to begin work on the final three volumes of the six-volume Selected Papers of Jane Addams, published by the University of Illinois Press. Ms. Hajo said that each of the volumes will include approximately 250 of the most historically significant documents, transcribed and fully annotated. "Volume 4 will cover the dates 1901-1912, years in which Ms. Addams was a leader in the settlement movement, the woman suffrage movement, and the Progressive Party," Ms. Hajo said.

"I am grateful to the NHPRC for their support of the Addams Papers, and to our students for the wonderful work they have accomplished in our first year at Ramapo," she added.

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Born on September 6, 1860, in Cedarville, Illinois, Jane Addams was known prominently for her work as a social reformer, pacifist and feminist during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The eighth of nine children born to an affluent state senator and businessman, Ms. Addams lived a life of privilege. Her father had many important friends, including President Abraham Lincoln. She co-founded one of the first settlements in the United States, the Hull House in Chicago, Illinois, in 1889, and was named a co-winner of the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize. The house provided services for the immigrant and poor population living in the Chicago area. Over the years, the organization grew to include more than 10 buildings and extended its service to include child care, educational courses, an art gallery, a public kitchen and several other social programs. Ms. Addams also served as the first female president of the National Conference of Social Work, established the National Federation of Settlements and served as president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She died in 1935 in Chicago.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Public 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, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.