



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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**QuickTakes!**

## **Ramapo College Breaks Ground on New Learning Commons that Marks a New Era in Educational Excellence and a Celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

September 6, 2019

Ramapo College of New Jersey on September 4<sup>th</sup> launched the college's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year-long celebration, as well as started construction on the Learning Commons project that will transform the George T. Potter Library into a 21<sup>st</sup> century collaborative space for research, learning and exploration. In 2016, Ramapo received \$15 million from the State of New Jersey Higher Education Capital Facilities program to completely renovate the Porter Library and create a new Learning Commons. The ambitious three-year \$40 million project will result in a modern educational facility designed to support the intellectual growth of Ramapo's students and the entire college community.

"A campus library is the nerve center of every college. We are creating a space that will serve the needs of our students today and well into the future," said Ramapo President Peter P. Mercer. "This has been a collaborative effort of the Learning Commons Task Force and our very generous donors who will help make this project come to fruition," he added, acknowledging among others lead donor Susan A. Vallario, vice chair, Ramapo College Board of Trustees.

William F. Dator, chair of the Ramapo College Board of Trustees, added, "We must have the facilities that match our reputation. The Learning Commons will dramatically change the students' and faculty's scholarly pursuits on campus."

The project, led by architectural firm of Bohlin Cywinski, will address the infrastructure issues and increase the building's interior space from 60,000 to 80,000 square feet. The project will include increasing seating capacity by 65 percent, adding 19 new study rooms and flexible-use classroom space, and repurposing and modernizing computer and technology labs. The facility also will house archives, several special collections, the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and the Krame Center for Mindful Living.

*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*

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*The College of New Jersey  
Kean University  
New Jersey City University*

*Ramapo College of New Jersey  
Stockton University*

*Thomas Edison State University  
William Paterson University*

*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, 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, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.*