



2021 Presidential Search Committee Nomination Form

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Prefix, First Name, Last Name	Dr. Rikki Abzug
Preferred Pronouns	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Position Title (if applicable)	Professor
Years of Service with Ramapo College (if applicable)	13
I am interested in serving on the 2021 Presidential Search Committee as a representative of the:	Faculty
Please select one:	As a representative of the RCNJ faculty, I affirm that this nomination has the endorsement of the RCNJ Faculty Assembly.
Affirmation of Understanding	I have reviewed and I accept the 2021 Presidential Search Committee Charge, Statement of Understanding for Committee Members, and Search Process Timeline.
Reason for Service. Please describe why you are interested in serving on the 2021 Presidential Search Committee and how you may add value and insight to the Committee's process and deliberations. (500 word maximum)	My reasons to serve are threefold: 1) I bring representative interdisciplinarity and across-institution experience (including a myriad of search committee service) 2) I bring insights from my scholarly research on college leadership, and 3) I bring the commitment of not only educator and scholar to the table, but current Ramapo parent, as well. I am the product of a liberal arts college education, having received my BA in Sociology and Anthropology with a concentration in Women's Studies from Swarthmore College. My PhD is in Sociology and I have taught in both sociology departments and professional schools. I have been a member of the faculty of Ramapo College for thirteen years and I have valuable comparative experience having been a member of the faculty at the New School for Social Research for eight years earlier and New York University for five years before that. I have worked under four very different College/University Presidents and know full well the difference that a visionary, admired, enterprising college president makes. As an organizational scholar, I have conducted research and published papers on the effectiveness of college presidents in liberal arts colleges. I have, indeed, found significant evidence that college leadership "believability" -- demonstrated adherence to the goals/visions of a particular institution (i.e., deep experience/reverence for the liberal arts for a leader of a college of liberal arts) -- translates into superior stakeholder support for that institution. I am, also, currently a Ramapo College parent. In that regard, the future health and reputation of

the College could not be more important to me and my family as my daughter will one day be an alumnus of this institution and I owe it to her and her generation to provide whatever relevant skills I can to support the process of bringing in the most qualified and exciting college president that I can.

In all, I would very much like to be able to contribute my particularly relevant experience to the Ramapo College Presidential Search Process to help support the Board's choice of the very best possible candidate to lead us through this tumultuous time in higher education. I want to be on the search committee because my past and interdisciplinary experience at Ramapo and other institutions, my specific scholarly research and intellectual curiosity, and my role as a parent are all pushing me to ensure that this process results in the best possible candidate that experience, research and emotional stakes can provide.

Vision for the Search. Please describe your vision for the search process. (350 word maximum)

Recognizing the role of the Board as the ultimate decision making body, my vision for the search is for each member to represent as broad a swath of the college's stakeholders as possible as we follow the outline that the Board has provided. This committee represents a grand commitment to Shared Governance at the college and my vision for the search is for each member to commit to just that.

Top Five. Please describe what you believe to be the top five characteristics/capabilities needed in the next College president. (350 word maximum)

Believability — Based on my own research, this correlates to stakeholder legitimacy. The community is hungry for leadership steeped in the liberal arts, understanding its importance in the Academy, but recognizing that it may take different forms over time. As well, for Ramapo, we need somebody who completely buys in to our teaching and mentoring mission.

Visionary — The liberal arts, the entire Academy, is under threat of disruption like never before. We need very fresh, current, and bold ideas about how to not only survive but thrive

Stakeholder Engaged — we need somebody who carefully listens to all of our stakeholders and can also shake the money from the trees in the surrounding neighborhood

Social justice/equity focused — we need somebody who understands the landscape of players and can deal with everyone in an upstanding and equitable way

Consensus-Builder--While, as a community, we are all united in the mission of the college, the various stakeholders have often clashed over tactics. We need a leader who is a consensus-builder and will take the time to win over constituents with a clear and compelling vision.
