



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
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Ramapo College Professor's Work Included in *The Best American Poetry*

MAHWAH, N.J. – The work of Ramapo College Professor of Creative Writing James Hoch has been included in the 2019 edition of *The Best American Poetry*, recently published by Simon & Schuster. Hoch's poem "Sunflowers" was selected from literally tens of thousands of published poems including those that are selected to grace the pages of prestigious periodicals such as *Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker* and *American Poetry Review*.

"I'm honored, of course, to be selected among this group," said Hoch, admitting that he spent about four years working on this poem. "It was actually rejected several times before it made it into the *American Poetry Review* last year. You always ask yourself, 'Have I done enough for this poem?' so it's quite rewarding for it to be recognized."

"Sunflowers" conveys a message of personal relationships and loss, inspired by a museum viewing of Vincent Van Gogh's famous paintings.

Since 1988, *The Best American Poetry* has been the leading anthology of contemporary American poetry. The book is available at booksellers and online.

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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, 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.