



RUTGERS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Rutgers University-New Brunswick Joins Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities  
(a2ru)**

**ANN ARBOR, Mich. and NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J.—**

Rutgers University-New Brunswick, the flagship campus of the State University of New Jersey, has become a member of the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru), a national network promoting arts and arts-integrative research, teaching, learning and practice across higher education.

Jason Geary, Dean of the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers, says, "Joining a2ru will not only help ignite new campus conversations around the role of the arts at a major research university but will also provide us with a platform to highlight the innovative cross-disciplinary collaboration that is already taking place." Geary, who serves on the a2ru Executive Committee, will spearhead amplification efforts on the

Rutgers-New Brunswick campus alongside Henry Turner, Vice President for Academic Initiatives, and Laura Lawson, Interim Executive Dean at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

Maryrose Flanigan, a2ru Executive Director, says, "I am thrilled to welcome Rutgers, one of the nation's top public research universities, to the a2ru network. We look forward to partnering with Deans Geary and Lawson, Vice President Turner, and their colleagues to foster new arts-integrative activities on campus, while increasing awareness for and supporting continued development of their remarkable existing initiatives. I am confident that Rutgers' scholars and artists will be valued thought partners and collaborators within the a2ru community for years to come."

Current arts-integrative efforts at Rutgers-New Brunswick include the **Dance & Parkinson's Program**, a collaboration involving faculty in dance, psychiatry, and psychology that explores the role of dance in helping individuals with Parkinson's Disease improve their mobility. This program is part of a larger effort to establish a degree concentration in Dance Science, which would also involve the Kinesiology and Health Department and the Rutgers-based New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health.

Other existing and developing initiatives include its interdisciplinary **Collaborative on Arts Integration Research** as well as partnership between **the Mason Gross School of the Arts Documentary Film Lab** and the **School of Environmental and Biological Sciences** to facilitate artful science communication as part of federally funded grants awarded to faculty in SEBS. The newly established Mellon-funded **Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice** has begun exploring the potential role of the arts in furthering its mission supporting the struggle, within Rutgers and society at large, to achieve racial justice by highlighting and thus helping to dismantle elements of systemic racism.

## About a2ru

[a2ru](#) (The Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities) housed at the University of Michigan, is a partnership of over 35 institutions committed to ensuring the greatest possible institutional support for the full spectrum of arts and arts-integrative research, curricula, programs and creative practice for the benefit of all students and faculty at research universities and the communities they serve. a2ru sponsors an annual conference, an Emerging Creatives student summit, the online journal Ground Works,

and an ongoing series of webinars, research publications, and online conversations to share knowledge and best practices across the network.

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## **About Rutgers University-New Brunswick**

Rutgers University–New Brunswick is where Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, began more than 250 years ago. Ranked among the world’s top 60 universities, Rutgers’s flagship is a leading public research institution and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. It has an internationally acclaimed faculty, 12 degree-granting schools and the Big Ten Conference’s most diverse student body.

## **About Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University**

[Mason Gross School of the Arts](#) at Rutgers-New Brunswick comprises a vibrant community of nearly 1,200 makers—dancers, filmmakers, musicians, theater artists, visual artists, and designers unafraid to get their hands dirty as they collaborate with our renowned faculty of professional working artists. Mason Gross graduates emerge not merely with a degree but, ideally, with a commitment to making innovative and purposeful contributions to the wider community—onstage, backstage, in a gallery, a classroom, a studio, and beyond. The goal: to cultivate thinking, thoughtful makers embracing art as an ever-changing field of possibility.