

# **Guide to the School Records Collection: Ithaca Public Schools – Lehman Alternative Community School**

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### COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Alternative schools – distinguished by small class size, self-guided learning, and greater student engagement in the community – got their start in Ithaca with the opening of the Markles Flats School (later the New Program for Junior High Students) and the conversion of the East Hill School into a home for an alternative elementary program. These programs are now defunct, but the Alternative Community School, later renamed the Lehman Alternative Community School (LACS) after its first principal, was founded in 1974, "to be a genuine alternative where students, staff and parents are directly involved in governance...where students may study subjects of personal interest, and courses are available which relate to contemporary issues in society...." The broader philosophy of the school reflects the administrative goal of letting students use freedom responsibly, and to make their own educational choices appropriate to their individual levels of development. One such student was Satya Rhoades Conway, who was heavily involved with leadership roles at LACS when she was a student there in the 1980s and 1990s. She served on the school's Advisory Board and was involved in various administrative efforts, including personnel decisions and curriculum planning. She saved numerous records from her years there and this collection contains her materials from 1983-1990. Satya Rhoades Conway is still a leader in her community; she is currently the Mayor of Madison, WI.

In addition to LACS, in 2009 the New Roots Charter School opened in downtown Ithaca, as another alternative school in the Ithaca City School District.

### CONTAINER LIST

About the School

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