Ramapo Students Present Research at Prestigious Conference

Nine Ramapo undergraduates traveled to the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts this month. The nine students were selected to present their undergraduate research at the Council of Public Liberal Arts College's 4th Annual Northeast Regional Undergraduate Research Conference. The students were joined by their faculty advisors and members of the senior staff. The Conference also featured a choral performance of the “Spirit of Appalachia” by Ramapo’s CantaNova singers.

Student presenters were also invited to submit their work for publication in the fall issue of Metamorphosis, COPLAC’s peer reviewed electronic journal of scholarly and creative activity. Several Ramapo alumni have had their work published in the journal.

Governor Christie Visits Campus

On October 1, Ramapo College welcomed New Jersey Governor Chris Christie to campus. With hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and friends of the College in attendance, the Governor discussed investing in higher education as an integral component of the State’s economic success. “I think it’s going to be money well invested and well spent on all of you and New Jersey’s future,” Christie told the crowd.

Funding for the investment comes from the Building Our Future Bond Act, a referendum approved by New Jersey voters last fall. The State awarded Ramapo College nearly $20 million to be directed to three major capital projects: upgrades to current science, technology, and math instructional spaces; enhancements to the campus’ wireless infrastructure; and a repurposing of current administrative spaces.

The last time that Ramapo received state funds from a capital bond was 25 years ago.
Experimenting...with the Board?

A recent blog post on the Association of Governing Boards site describes some experimental strategies to attract trustees as volunteer leaders.

“The engagement of volunteer leadership has always been problematic for public institutions. Unlike the carefully cultivated and recruited boards of private institutions, public governing boards face unique challenges: they typically are the result of gubernatorial appointment or election; their composition may be statutorily restricted; and, campuses within a system may not have a local board at all. In response to these challenges, some forward-looking universities are experimenting with ways, drawn in some cases from private institution models, to better engage volunteer leaders.”

Read the full post at http://blog.agb.org

"Affordable Colleges" Ranks Ramapo in Top 50

Ramapo College was recently ranked as one of New Jersey’s highest return on investment colleges by AffordableCollegesOnline.org. Ramapo was ranked in the top 50 of 875 institutions nation-wide.

The rankings list is comprised of the New Jersey colleges and universities with the greatest lifetime return on investment. Graduates from these schools enjoy the largest earnings gap between non-degree holders, over a thirty-year span.

Colleges were ranked based on several criteria, including net tuition prices, the graduate’s average starting salaries, ROI calculation and schools being fully accredited, four-year not-for-profit institutions. The information for each was provided by IPEDS/NCES, PayScale and the Carnegie Foundation.

In order to be considered as a “High ROI College,” each school had to be a fully accredited institution, four-year degree-granting institution, either public or private, and have an ROI according to PayScale’s 2013 College Value Report.

Family Day 2013: Academic Leadership Panel

As part of Family Day programming this month, the Office of the President hosted "Inside Academia: Breakfast with President Mercer and the Academic Leadership." The interactive breakfast for students and their families featured a panel discussion, question and answer session, and moderation by Trustee Anthony Darakjy and Alternate
Trustee Kevin Ng. Panel members included President Mercer, Provost Barnett, Deans Steven Perry, Samuel Rosenberg, Stephen Rice, Eddie Saiff, Elizabeth Siecke, and Lewis Chakrin. Professors Kristin Kenneavy and John Gronbeck-Tedesco as well as Brandon Martin ’11 also served as panelists.

Topics addressed ranged from state support for higher education in NJ, the value of internships, to the unique faculty/student mentoring relationships at Ramapo.

Real Roadrunner: Mitch Kahn, Ph.D. (Ret.)

Mitch Kahn, professor of social work, may have retired from Ramapo this year but he sure hasn’t slowed down.

Mitch was recently contacted by the President of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) on behalf of the NASW’s Board of Directors. The Association was calling to inform him that he had been selected as the recipient of the 2013 National Lifetime Achievement Award!

Award recipients must “demonstrate repeated outstanding achievements, as well as recognition beyond the social work profession, contributions of lasting impact, and outstanding creativity.”

Mitch will accept the award at the Association’s national conference in the summer of 2014.

Mitch was granted the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Jersey Chapter of the NASW in the spring.

Learn more about previous NASW award winners. http://www.socialworkers.org/governance/awards/types/lifetime.asp

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Have you visited the President’s Post lately?