

# ENHANCE

THE ENHANCE PROGRAM AT RAMAPO COLLEGE

[www.ramapo.edu/enhance](http://www.ramapo.edu/enhance)

Newsletter -  
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## YEAR TWO: MOVING ONWARD AND UPWARD!

**ENHANCE's** second full academic year began on September 4, 2019 with 17 students (6 returning and 11 new) enrolled in the program. Once again, we held our New Student Orientation in late August with a brunch and "meet and greet" with staff members, families and peer mentors. Several of our returning students were also able to attend and talk about life at Ramapo. New students living on campus could also do an early "drop and go" that day so their belongings would already be in their room making move-in day a little less stressful. This year we were able to pair up ENHANCE students with Peer Mentors so they could attend Welcome Week programming and social events together and in groups, which made it much easier for our new students get involved in campus activities right from the beginning!

### Check it Out!

**Our ENHANCE students are a diverse group of accomplished individuals whose talents are represented all around campus**

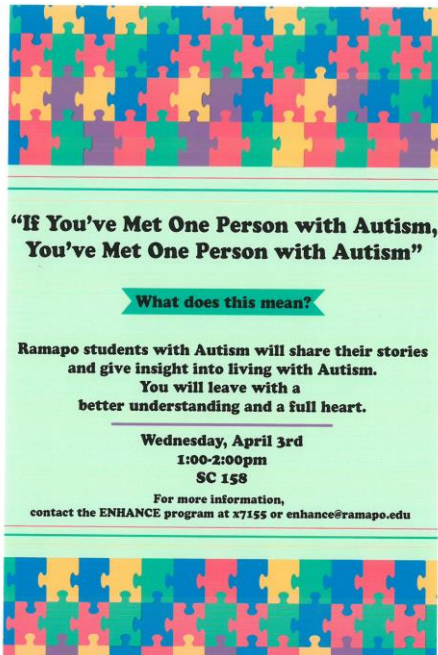
- ✓ Several of our students are involved in leadership positions and serve on e-boards of campus clubs.
- ✓ ENHANCE students are honor society members and high school valedictorians.
- ✓ Our students are public speakers and event announcers.
- ✓ Several of our students act in plays, sing in the Ramapo Chorale, compose original music and lyrics, and perform in Ramapo music ensembles and Open Mics.

### ENHANCE on the road



Suzanne Calgi, coordinator of ENHANCE, has been spending many nights and weekends this fall getting the word out about the program to interested students and their families. In addition to the three Open Houses held at Ramapo, Suzanne has attended the Summit High School and Newmark High School transition fairs, as well as being an exhibitor at the Aspen conference. More events are planned so be sure to stop by and say hi if you see Suzanne at the ENHANCE table!

## Autism Awareness Month



In April 2019, ENHANCE students participated in an interactive panel titled “If You’ve Met One Person with Autism, You’ve Met One Person with Autism” where they shared stories and experiences of living with Autism with Ramapo students, faculty and staff in attendance.

Based on the positive feedback we received, we plan to make this program bigger and better with events happening during the entire month of April featuring current students and some recent Ramapo graduates participating.

Stay tuned for more information!

[enhance@ramapo.edu](mailto:enhance@ramapo.edu)

201-684-7522

Suzanne Calgi, LCSW

Program Coordinator, ENHANCE

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## SPOTLIGHT ON... AUTUMN BASS

*“Students on the autism spectrum and anyone in special education teach society valuable lessons...this population allows us to look at things from another light.”*

Meet Autumn Bass, a recent graduate of Ramapo College who is continuing her education to earn a Master’s Degree in Social Work at RCNJ. Autumn is working as an Intern with the ENHANCE program as part of the MSW program. As a child, Autumn was diagnosed with an auditory processing disorder and so brings a unique perspective to her position. As a high school student, a favorite teacher said something that has always resonated with Autumn: “You are not disabled – you just learn differently.” Autumn uses that advice to inform her interactions with students: working as a peer mentor, helping to run the Connections group and her personal favorite, the weekly Social Group. Autumn says that it is refreshing to see our students interact with one another in this environment and she likes to challenge them to “get out of their comfort zone.”

## Connections Connections

Our weekly Connections group is one of the hallmarks of the ENHANCE program and much of what we do here is designed to help our students become successful at Ramapo College and beyond. Over pizza and soda, our meetings cover topics like the differences between high school and college and talk about advocating with professors, accessing college resources like tutoring, the fitness center, etc. We delve into friendships and dating and role play some awkward or concerning situations and how to handle them, like meetings with professors/employers or campus safety. We will often invite other departments to come and speak to our students. Earlier this semester, a member of the Ramapo College Krame Center came and did a guided meditation and discussed mindfulness. Most recently, staff from the Cahill Career Center came and talked about Pathways and Handshake which are career preparation resources that are available to Ramapo students.