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**Ramapo College and County College of Morris Develop Joint Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program to Ease the Transfer Process, Affordability of a BSN**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Students interested in a career in nursing now have a more affordable option for earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree as a result of a new program established by Ramapo College of New Jersey and the County College of Morris (CCM).

On Wednesday, February 29, 2012, President Edward J. Yaw, president of CCM, and President Peter P. Mercer, of Ramapo College of New Jersey, signed an articulation agreement that will allow nursing students at CCM to complete up to three years at CCM before transferring to Ramapo to earn their BSN.

“Such an agreement is important in light of the IOM (Institute of Medicine) recommendation stating that at least 80 percent of all nurses in the US should have BSNs by 2020,” said President Mercer. “This will make such a recommendation easier to achieve.”

The agreement guarantees admission of qualified CCM students to Ramapo College. Students who have earned an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing at the community college are eligible to transfer a maximum of 92 credits from CCM to Ramapo, where they could then complete the necessary credits to earn a BSN at Ramapo.

Nursing students who transfer to Ramapo after earning an Associate degree will benefit financially as they may pay for up to three years at CCM, which has a lower tuition as a community college. Ramapo’s BSN Program has been offered at the College since 1993 and has many on-line options available for the working nurse.

“We are delighted to enter into this joint program with Ramapo College,” said President Yaw. “This agreement will ease the transfer process for our nursing students who wish to earn their BSN while providing them with a more affordable pathway for earning that advanced degree.”

The Nursing program at CCM began in 1968 and prepares students for employment as registered nurses in a variety of healthcare fields or for advanced education to earn their BSN.

Ramapo College’s nursing program received \$2 million gift last year from Myron and Elaine Adler, of Franklin Lakes, in 2010 to establish the Adler Center for Nursing Excellence. The gift will fund the new home of the College’s highly-acclaimed nursing program and its state-of-the-art labs.

Ramapo College provides three major academic tracks in nursing:

- The Generic Nursing Program for individuals who are preparing to become a nurse
- The RN to BSN track for nurses returning to school for the BSN degree
- The MSN track to prepare future nurse educators

Students who take advantage of the joint agreement between CCM and Ramapo will benefit from Ramapo's NLNAC accredited RN/BSN curriculum. The curriculum focuses on the further professional education of the associate or diploma prepared nurse. Through the program, RNs can complete another 32 credits in nursing and any remaining general education requirements at Ramapo College. Ramapo's nursing courses are heavily web enhanced to allow RN students to easier deal with the multiple demands on their time.

For a photo of the Presidents Mercer and Yaw signing the agreement, click here:

[http://www.ramapo.edu/news/pressreleases/2012/images/ramapo\\_signing\\_1.tif](http://www.ramapo.edu/news/pressreleases/2012/images/ramapo_signing_1.tif)

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

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 nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers six graduate programs as well as articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.