



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
Press Release
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Contact: Angela Daidone
201-684-7477
news@ramapo.edu

Ramapo College Proudly Celebrates the Class of 2020

MAHWAH, N.J. – When the May commencement ceremonies were put on hold because of the coronavirus, Ramapo College officials promised the Class of 2020 that their hard work and accomplishments would be honored as soon as the situation permitted. That promise was kept.

The College celebrated its Class of 2020 on October 17 on the Ramapo College campus in Mahwah, N.J. Additional ceremonies are scheduled for Sunday, October 18 and Friday, October 23.

The College ensured that all Covid-19 safety measures, including a limited number of participants, face coverings and social distancing, were adhered to according to state and CDC guidelines and strictly enforced.

Students and their two guests proudly walked through the campus's iconic Arch, symbolizing their completed academic journey and entry into life beyond Ramapo. Immediately following the Arching ceremony, everyone took their places on the College Bandshell for the conferral of degrees. The events were live-streamed throughout.

Ramapo President Peter P. Mercer delivered his remarks at the Bandshell.

“Graduates, it is with great pride and great humility that I welcome you back to campus. This day has been long in the making but always at the top of our list of priorities,” said President Mercer. “It has been my privilege to serve as your president and to come to know many of you over the past several years whether it be through your leadership, classroom work and presentations, your art, music or vocal performances, or your civic and extracurricular engagement. For me, being a part of Ramapo College for the last 15 years has meant being a part of the future, namely your future. I have every confidence in your capacity and your tenacity and I look forward to your many successes.”

Ramapo Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Susan Gauden presented the candidates for undergraduate and graduate degrees.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Board of Trustees Immediate Past Chair William F. Dator offered virtual congratulatory messages. Undergraduate student speaker April Lynn Callas and graduate student speaker Moira McKibbin Meehan also addressed their fellow graduates via virtual message. Their videos can be viewed here: <https://www.ramapo.edu/commencement/>

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college and is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. The College is ranked #1 among New Jersey public institutions by College Choice, and is recognized as a top college by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Kiplinger's*, Princeton Review and *Money* magazine, among others. Ramapo College is also distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by CollegesofDistinction.com, boasts the best campus housing in New Jersey on Niche.com, and is designated a "Military Friendly College" in Victoria Media's *Guide to Military Friendly Schools*.

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 business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to master's degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.