



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Office of Media and Public Relations**  
**Press Release**  
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## **Ramapo Alumna, Adjunct on Front Line of Covid Research**

MAHWAH, N.J. -- For more than 50 years, Ramapo College has prepared its students for a lifetime of learning in careers that are both diverse and essential to advancing social and global issues. In the last several months, in particular, the value of the degrees earned by the graduates of Ramapo's School of Theoretical and Applied Science, and the extraordinary efforts of these alumni are being recognized.

Alumna Kaelea Composto '20 was recently featured in a CBS-TV News item about her work at Hackensack Meridian Health Center for Discovery and Innovation in Nutley, N.J. Composto, who earned her B.S. in biology, is one of the Center's research technicians testing for the new U.K. variant strain of the coronavirus that has been recently detected in the United States. The Center's manager for the infectious disease laboratory, José Mediavilla, who also was featured in the news clip, also serves as an adjunct professor for the undergraduate genetics laboratory course at Ramapo College.

<https://newyork.cbslocal.com/video/5173343-exclusive-cbs2-looks-inside-new-jersey-lab-where-researchers-test-for-new-uk-covid-strain/>

"It is heartening to see our alumna and our professors conducting research on the Covid-19 pandemic," said Edward Saiff, dean of Ramapo's School of Theoretical and Applied Science (TAS). "It's just one example of our alumni making a real difference and our adjunct professors bringing great experiences to our students."

Dean Saiff added that Ramapo TAS alumni, as well as faculty from the nursing program, are working in healthcare facilities all over the country on the front lines. "The College is very proud of their efforts and their achievements," he said.

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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, has been named one of the 50

Most Beautiful College Campuses in America by *CondeNast Traveler*, 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, data science, 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, Creative Music Technology, Data Science, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education, as well as a post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice.