



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
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State General Assembly Speaker Names Ramapo College Counselor to New Jersey's Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council

MAHWAH, N.J. – Cesar León, Ph.D., Counselor and Multicultural Specialist with Ramapo College's Center for Health and Counseling Services, has been named to the New Jersey Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council by General Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin.

The council, established in 2004, consists of 18 members from state government and public members appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and by the Speaker of the General Assembly. The purpose of the council is to examine existing needs and services and make recommendations to the Department of Children and Families for youth reporting, prevention, and intervention.

"I am honored to be appointed to the council by Assembly Speaker Coughlin and lend my voice to the very important work of reducing youth suicide, the third leading cause of death among teenagers in New Jersey," said León. "I look forward to drawing on my experience and expertise in mental health to meaningfully contribute to the council's mission of increasing understanding of this issue at the state level, as well as providing young people and their families with important information about available psychological resources and interventions."

The council seeks to educate youth and families at risk about the resources available for suicide prevention and post intervention, and to reduce the overall incidents of suicide throughout the state.

Christopher Romano, Ramapo's Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, said that since joining Ramapo in 2018, León has played an integral role in developing and overseeing Ramapo's counseling center's comprehensive Diversity Strategic Plan to provide psychoeducation, reduce stigma and increase access to services among the College's traditionally under-represented student groups.

“Cesar is a compassionate psychologist strongly committed to helping young people succeed,” said Romano. “We have seen the number of students from under-represented groups accessing the Counseling Center increase under Cesar's leadership. I know that his efforts, knowledge and commitment to serving students will be a valuable addition to the State's Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council.”

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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 *CondéNast 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.