



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Media and Public Relations
Press Release
May 24, 2021

Contact: Angela Daidone
news@ramapo.edu

Ramapo College's Pathways Program Receives Top Honors for Excellence in Career Services

MAHWAH, N.J. – Ramapo College of New Jersey has been recognized for excellence in career services by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). Ramapo's "Pathways to Success: Creating a Culture and Structure of Career Development" was named the top program in the category honoring career services best practices.

"Ramapo College's Pathways Program was thoughtfully designed in recognition of the varied and competitive career paths that liberal arts graduates pursue," said Ramapo President Peter P. Mercer. "Building upon the critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills that our students glean from the classroom, the Pathways program prepares our students for internships, interviews, and other hands-on activities essential to a lifetime of success."

Ramapo's Pathways Program, administered through the Cahill Career Center, provides students in each of the College's five schools with the knowledge and tools to prepare for internships, graduate/professional school, and other experiential activities essential to post-graduation success. The Pathways Program engages the entire campus community to support career development as a core value of the College to ensure career readiness. Completion of the Pathways Program at Ramapo College is a degree requirement.

"The Pathways program is designed to ensure all students, including first-generation and traditionally underserved students, engage early in career development activities to prepare for their futures," said LaQuan Norman, associate director of the program. "Witnessing students mature in the recognition of both their strengths and areas for growth and then landing that first job or graduate program acceptance has been truly rewarding."

Cynthia G. Michalewski, Assistant Director/Career Advisor of Ramapo's Anisfield School of Business, said for first-generation students who do not have established networks or past experiences to help them succeed, the Pathways Program can make all the difference. "Through Pathways, we engage them early and through a structured approach, they explore career options, communicate their brand and sharpen the skills needed to become compelling candidates in a competitive job market. To see students feeling so confident and accomplished when they share with me that they have landed their first internship or job in the field of their dreams is one of the greatest feelings and one of the best parts of my job."

Ramapo College also was listed among the nation's top 100 public colleges with the best return on investment, according to data of 4,500 public colleges collected by College Scorecard. Ramapo ranked #73 nationwide, placing it in the top 2 percent of all colleges reviewed. Beth Ricca, director of Ramapo's Cahill Career Development Center, said, "The skills and experiences Ramapo students gain through academics, internships and co-curricular activities prepare them for a lifetime of achievement, which is apparent in the many successes of our alumni."

Established in 1956, the National Association of Colleges and Employers is a professional association that connects more than 9,700 college career services professionals; over 3,300 university relations and recruiting professionals; and more than 300 business solution providers that serve this community. NACE is the leading source of information on the employment of the college educated, and forecasts hiring and trends in the job market; tracks starting salaries, recruiting and hiring practices, and student attitudes and outcomes; and identifies best practices and benchmarks. The NACE Excellence Awards are judged on program needs/objectives, content, design, creativity, innovation, measurable outcomes and ease of replication in the several categories.

###

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.