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**A.J. SABATH NEW CHAIR OF RAMAPO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*Esther Suarez to serve as Vice Chair*

(MAHWAH) – The Ramapo College Board of Trustees announced that a former Ramapo graduate, A.J. Sabath '93, is the new chair of the College's Board of Trustees. Sabath, owner of the Advocacy Group, LLC, a lobbying and government affairs firm, received his bachelor's degree in Social Work from Ramapo College. Sabath joined the board in 2005. The Rev. Dr. Vernon C. Walton, who served as chairman from 2007 to 2009, will remain on the board's Executive Committee as Immediate Past Chair.

"As a Ramapo alumnus, I know firsthand the tremendous value of a public liberal arts education, how it can transform lives and future generations of New Jersey's children," said Sabath. "As a board, we will continue to ensure that a degree from Ramapo College remains distinctive, yet affordable."

From 2007 to 2009, Sabath served as vice chair of the board. Sabath previously worked as the chief of staff to Senate President Richard J. Codey, and prior to that served as commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Esther Suarez, counsel for the County of Bergen, is the newly elected vice chair. Suarez was appointed to the Board in 2005 and has chaired of the Finance Committee. She also serves as Bergen County Adjuster and was previously counsel for the City of Hoboken and for the Union City Housing Authority. She is also a member of the Bergen County Board of Social Services. She is a graduate of Rutgers University, Douglass College and received her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law.

"It is a privilege to work on behalf of the students and dedicated faculty and staff that comprise Ramapo College," said Suarez. "We will continue to invest in their success as we establish Ramapo as the premier liberal arts College in the region."

Sharon McGahee, a senior attorney with Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, will continue as board secretary. Ms. McGahee joined the board of trustees in 2005. She earned a Juris Doctor degree in 1982 from Rutgers School of Law and her undergraduate degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. She represents the Port Authority in employment discrimination, personal injury and worker's compensation matters.

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