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Ramapo College of New Jersey Sends Off Largest Class at Commencement
U.S. Senator Robert Menendez delivers keynote address

(MAHWAH, NJ) – The largest graduating class in the history of Ramapo College participated in Commencement ceremonies today. Surrounded by family, friends, faculty and staff, the 1,437 members of the Class of 2010 marched beneath the College's Arch on their way to collect their diplomas.

The symbolic procession beneath the arch completes a journey they began on their first day on campus when they walked beneath the arch, shook the hand of President Peter P. Mercer, and began their undergraduate career at Ramapo College.

U.S. Senator Robert Menendez was the keynote speaker.

“As someone who stands before you today because of a mother who taught me the way to success is through a good education, I applaud your achievements and hope they are never taken for granted,” Menendez said. “There are no guarantees in life, but hard work and a quality education form the rock solid foundation for prosperity. At this moment of tremendous challenges and equally tremendous opportunity, our nation is coming together to rebuild for the 21st Century. You, the Class of 2010, are graduating with tools to meet those challenges and embrace the opportunity. I wish you the best of luck and congratulate all of the graduates and their families on this momentous occasion.”

Stephan Sarosh Dalal, the Class of 2010 representative, spoke of the sacrifices made by the graduates and their families to gain knowledge and encouraged the gathering to persevere. “Any sacrifice for knowledge is no sacrifice at all,” said the psychology major from Upper Saddle River. “Ramapo's community has allowed me to experience the distinct and potent notion that knowledge is eternal. That knowledge is limitless in its ability to empower individuals, and will never yield to time.”

Ramapo College President Peter P. Mercer told students that despite the economic downturn, the Class of 2010 is prepared to deal with the challenge.

“Thoughtful solutions will emerge from thoughtful people,” he said. “People who have learned to look at problems from many perspectives and analyze them critically.”

Mercer presented the President's Award of Merit to Anthony J. DeCarlo '77, VMD. DeCarlo graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in Biology from Ramapo College and received his Veterinary Medical Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the co-founder and co-

owner of Red Bank Veterinary Hospital, one of the country's premier privately-owned veterinary hospitals, located in Tinton Falls, New Jersey.

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