

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ramapo College of New Jersey Celebrates Fifth Annual Diversity Convocation with Musician, Activist Salman Ahmad

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Ramapo College of New Jersey will celebrate the Fifth Annual Diversity Convocation on Wednesday, February 2 with musician and activist Salman Ahmad. The United Nations Good Will Ambassador will give a performance/lecture titled “America and Islam Through a Rock and Roll Lens.” Ahmad is author of the memoir, “Rock and Roll Jihad: A Muslim Rock Star’s Revolution.”

Ahmad is a Pakistani rock star whose band Junoon has sold more than 25 million albums. A medical doctor by training, Ahmad currently travels the globe as a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador, spreading a message of harmony and reconciliation between the West and the Muslim world. He was a featured performer at the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, alongside musical talents such as Alicia Keys, Melissa Etheridge and Annie Lennox. He currently teaches a course on Muslim music and poetry at the City University of New York's Queens College campus. Ahmad spends his free time moving between Pakistan and Rockland County, New York, with his wife Samina and their three sons. For more about Ahmad’s musical and peacemaking career visit the Junoon site at <http://www.junoon.com/home2.htm>

Ahmad and his wife have created the Salman and Samina Global Wellness Initiative (SSGWI), a New York based NGO that promotes interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue, global health and wellness, and music education. www.ssgwi.org

The convocation will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Berrie Center’s Sharp Theater. A snow date is set for Wednesday, February 16.

Diversity Convocation events will also include a film screening and discussion on Wednesday, February 23 of “Coffee Futures” in the H-Wing Auditorium. Anthropologist Zeynep Devrim Gursel Ph.D., the director and co-producer, will participate. The film weaves together the Turkish custom of coffee fortune-telling with Turkey’s decades-long attempt to join the European Union, revealing the textures of a society whose fate has long been nationally and internationally debated.

These events are sponsored by the Ramapo College Board of Trustees, President Peter P. Mercer and the College’s Diversity Action Committee. View the Diversity Action Committee Convocation website at www.ramapo.edu/news/events/dac/. Contact committee co-chairs Peter Campbell, pcampbel@ramapo.edu and Paula Straile-Costa, pstraile@ramapo.edu for more information.

Online Resources: [Press Release \(WORD\)](#) / [Image \(TIFF\)](#)

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fourth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work, and as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers four graduate programs and articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.