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**Student Advocacy Group at Ramapo College  
Sponsors Innovative Suicide Awareness Display**

(MAHWAH, NJ) - In an effort to shed light on the tragedy of college student suicide and start a dialogue about a heavily stigmatized topic, Active Minds at Ramapo College of New Jersey will be hosting Send Silence Packing, a public education display of 1,100 donated backpacks representing the 1,100 college students lost to suicide each year on Wednesday, April 27.

“Few people realize that suicide is the second leading cause of death on college campuses and is erasing the future of so many of our peers,” said Active Minds chapter president Jessica Parascando “We are so honored to host Send Silence Packing. The display will provide a powerful opportunity to raise awareness at Ramapo College and let every student know that if they are depressed or suicidal they are not alone and there is help.”

Send Silence Packing was developed by Active Minds, Inc., the leading voice for college student mental health in the United States. The national organization has collected and continues to collect backpacks and personal stories in memory of loved ones lost to suicide. By displaying backpacks with personal stories that put a ‘face’ to the lives lost to suicide, Send Silence Packing carries the message that preventing suicide is not just about lowering statistics, but about saving the lives of students, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and friends across the nation.

The exhibit will be on display at the Arch from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the display will be held indoors at the Bradley Center. The group will be passing out information about mental health, student suicide, and where to go to seek help. At 3 p.m., there will be a Walk for Wellness.

“Together we can save lives,” said Jessica Parascando, Active Minds chapter president.

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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 five 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.