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MEN TAKE A STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE IN HIGH HEELS

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes makes a statement against sexual assault and relationship violence

(MAHWAH, NJ) -- On Tuesday, October 4 the Ramapo College Women's Center will be presenting Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, an annual event where men symbolically march around campus in high heeled shoes to take a stand against relationship violence and sexual assault. This event, which began at the College in 2005, is widely attended by athletes, fraternity brothers, and other student leaders who come together to make a real impact on their peers.

The walk will take place at the Arch from 1-2 pm and a discussion of relationship violence and how it impacts both men and women will be taking place in The Women's Center immediately after.

“When college men walk a mile in three inch heels for this cause they are an example to other men, and not just of superior balance skills,” said Women’s Center Director Kat McGee. “We need these men to say that violence is not just a women’s issue, this is my issue, and perpetrators of sexual assault and relationship violence don’t speak for me. The vast majority of men are not okay with the fact that as many as 1 in 4 women on their campus are survivors of violence. But when they stay silent on this issue, they allow the very small minority of men who perpetrate these crimes speak for them.”

“This event is an entertaining way to get people to recognize how serious interpersonal violence is in our society, not just for women but for men as well,” said Men’s Outreach Coordinator Travis Nicol. “Having these sorts of conversations is never an easy task, but the empowering and humorous aspects of Walk a Mile in Her Shoes allows us to break down those barriers and understand that only by working together can men and women reduce instances of violence and create positive changes in our communities.”

The Women’s Center, founded in 1974, is a social justice organization that provides a safe space for all students on the campus and programming on many issues. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is a part of Violence Awareness Week, an annual campaign that works to empower students to stop sexual assault and relationship violence within the community.

For more information, or to arrange interviews with organizers, contact Anna Farneski at 201-684-7602.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College 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. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers five graduate programs as well as 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.