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Ramapo College Students to Host Discussion, March on Trayvon Martin Case

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Ramapo College is hosting “Justice for Trayvon Martin,” a program discussion and a silent candlelight vigil. The discussion begins at 8:30 p.m. in the Alumni Lounges, followed by a silent, candlelit march across campus at 9:45 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, in Martin’s memory.

Participants are encouraged to wear hooded sweatshirts as Martin had been wearing one when he was shot to death by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer, in Sanford, Florida in February. The 17-year-old’s death has sparked debate over what happened between Martin and Zimmerman leading up to the former’s killing and whether Zimmerman acted in self-defense as he has claimed.

The goal of the event is “to increase awareness and educate the Ramapo community about the Trayvon Martin case,” said Santali Villafane ’13, of Camden, NJ, a Law & Society major who helped organize the event. Villafane also added that the discussion and vigil is to “support a social justice issue sweeping the nation.”

Sponsored by the Greater Northern Chapter of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity and the Ramapo community, the event is free and open to the public.

Participants in the march are to meet at the Robert A. Scott Student Center, where the walk will begin. The march is expected to last about an hour.

For more information about the event, please contact Santali Villafane at svillafa@ramapo.edu.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, 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.