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Students To Lead "Beyond Disability" Panel Discussion on March 12

(MAHWAH, NJ) - On Tuesday, March 12, three female Ramapo College students with disabilities will speak during the panel discussion "Beyond Disability: Women Living and Succeeding with Disabilities" in ASB-221 from 1 to 2 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by the Women's Center and the Office of Specialized Services as part of Women's HERstory Month.

The panel will consist of students Jessica Costa, Ela Wojtowicz and Susan Vanino. They will share their experiences and answer questions about living with disabilities, being women with disabilities and how they debunk assumptions that society may have about disabilities.

Jessica Costa is a first-year student majoring in Literature. She has Asperger's Syndrome but does not like to use the word disability to define herself or her life. Ela Wojtowicz is a graduating senior in Psychology. She has Cerebral Palsy but has never let her disability stop her from living an experienced life. Susan Vanino is a graduating senior in Social Work. She has vision loss and has a seeing eye dog named "Q." Susan is an adult student, with grown children of her own and is the program coordinator at the Adjustment to Vision Loss Program in Hackensack, NJ.

The powerful and inspirational panel discussion aims to get to the heart of women living with disability. The event is free. For more information, contact Abbe Benowitz at abenowitz@ramapo.edu or call (201) 684-7693.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth 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.