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Ramapo to Present "Living Productively With Disabilities" Lecture

(MAHWAH, NJ) - "Living Productively With Disabilities" will be presented on Tuesday, April 9 from Noon to 2 p.m. in the Alumni Lounges in SC-137 and SC-138. The event will feature two inspirational stories from individuals with special needs, Michael Nevin and Sarah Vazquez. After they share their stories, the two will hold a discussion with the audience.

Michael Nevin is a computer aide at Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey. He is student at Bergen Community College and graduated as a National Honor Society member in high school. He has learned first-hand the importance of being his own advocate. "Life is an experience, and what we do with it is up to us; advocating for oneself provides a great feeling of pride and achievement," says Nevin. He aims to encourage both students and educators on the important issue of self-advocacy.

Sarah Vazquez is a nationally known speaker, writer and advocate with more than 10 years of experience working in the field of supporting those with disabilities. She grew up mindful that the world viewed her as "different" due to her cerebral palsy. Sarah, who holds a degree in English and Psychology from Rutgers University, has already written an autobiography, "Paved Roads." She continues to challenge all people to have expectations for their lives, to express their inner voices and, above all, to follow their dreams.

Attendees are welcomed to bring their lunches to the event. Drinks and dessert will be served. The event is supported by a Ramapo College Platinum Grant awarded to the Teacher Education Program in the School of Social Science and Human Services. It is co-sponsored by the Office of Specialized Services. For any additional information, please contact Professor Julie Good in Teacher Education at jgood@ramapo.edu.

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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.