

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Relations
Press Release

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Benjamin Todd Jealous, former head of NAACP, to Speak at Ramapo College on September 22

(Mahwah, NJ) -Benjamin Todd Jealous, the former president and chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), will speak at Ramapo College of New Jersey on Monday, September 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Jealous began his career with the NAACP opening mail at age 18 for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He rose to become the youngest president in the organization's history. A Rhodes Scholar, Jealous was named by both *Forbes* and *TIME* magazine to their Top 40 under 40 lists and was named the Young Global Leader by World Economic Forum.

Under his leadership, the NAACP became the largest community-based nonpartisan voter registration operation in the country. Jealous' leadership at the NAACP included bringing environmentalist organizations into the fight to protect voting rights. He has been a leader of successful state and local movements to ban the death penalty, outlaw racial profiling, defend voting rights, secure marriage equality and end mass incarceration.

Prior to leading the NAACP, he spent 15 years serving as a journalist and community organizer. While at Mississippi's *Jackson Advocate* newspaper, his investigations were credited with exposing corruption at a state penitentiary and proving the innocence of a black farmer framed for arson. While at Amnesty International, he led successful efforts to outlaw prison rape, exposed the increasing trend of children being sentenced to life without the possibility of parole and drew attention to expanded racial profiling in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Jealous recently joined the Silicon Valley venture capital firm Kapor Capital, where he plans to continue his goal of growing opportunities for minorities in the tech economy.

The event is sponsored by the Deans' Lecture Series and will take place in the Sharp Theater in the Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for the Performing and Visual Arts. It is free and open to the public.

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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 6,000 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 seven graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University 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.