

## **Job Training Event to Help the Unemployed Held at Ramapo College**

Mahwah, N.J. – Net-a-Porter, Ramapo College and JerseyOn partnered recently to bring together various sectors to help the unemployed better their job-searching skills and hopefully find jobs. The event held on Ramapo College's campus on August 11, was spearheaded by Mahwah Mayor Bill LaForet in an effort to strengthen Mahwah's business community.

The event included free workshops by Ramapo College on creating a résumé, developing interview skills and starting a LinkedIn profile. JerseyOn provided advice to participants on applying for jobs online as well as other digital literacy skills. The Net-a-Porter Group, a luxury online retailer, purchased hot spot devices for all participants and presented information about the company and jobs that are currently available.

"Ramapo College has a vital interest in connecting with the community who look to us for training," said Ramapo College President Peter P. Mercer. "I am proud that Ramapo has been given the opportunity to work with Net-a-Porter, JerseyOn and Mahwah's Mayor for this program. We believe that sharing our professional expertise among those who need it most in an academic environment designed for learning is an important part of the College's mission."

Approximately 50 participants attended the event.

"I see this program as a collaborative effort to empower those in our community who may not have the same resources available to them," stated Joanne Bennett, Head of Human Resources for Net-a-Porter. "This partnership is ensuring that Mahwah remains at the forefront as a town recognized for supporting businesses and the economy by bringing jobs to the area and helping unemployed across the spectrum into work. Employing great people from our area who would not otherwise have had that chance is something that I am very proud to be a part of."

According to JerseyOn Executive Director Kurt Peluso, low-income Americans, seniors and minorities disproportionately find themselves "on the wrong side of the digital divide, excluded from the \$8 trillion dollar global Internet economy. Thanks to Net-a-Porter's effort to connect those seeking employment, we will be able to assist many of our unemployed."

Mayor Laforet said, "Bringing these partners together to create a loyal workforce through this program is compelling. It's good business for Mahwah, and it shows the dedication to the community."