



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Relations
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15th Annual Statewide Diversity Issues in Education Conference to be Held at Ramapo College

MAHWAH, N.J. -- The 15th Annual Statewide “Diversity Issues in Higher Education” conference will be held at Ramapo College of New Jersey on Friday, November 6. The conference is the premier event within the tri-state area addressing critical diversity challenges in academia, the workplace and the community.

The event is designed to involve educators, university personnel, corporate diversity leaders, recruiters, career-advancement professionals, government and community leaders, students and the general public. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Christopher Catching, dean of student affairs at Southern Connecticut State University. He has done extensive research and will offer a perspective on the factors that leverage diversity and inclusion.

The event schedule is as follows:

***A Keynote Response Panel Discussion** includes Middlesex County College President Joann La Perla-Morales, Transgender Rights Activist Barbra “Babs” Siperstein and Fatimah Williams Castro, Ph.D., President and CEO of Beyond Tenure Track. William Paterson University Director of the Office of Employment Equality and Diversity Michelle N. Johnson, Esq., will serve as moderator.

Breakout Sessions on:

“Law Enforcement and Race Relations: The Police, The Courts, and The Community” – Moderated by College of St. Elizabeth Career Services and Student Employment Director Teri Corso, this workshop will explore relevant issues around policing, the courts, and the community and will include former Morris County Prosecutor Robert Bianchi, Esq., and immediate Past President of the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives Jiles Ship as panelists.

“While We Are Changing: An Exploration of Transgender Identity”– This session, which will address gender as a new demographic, will be led by Executive Director of the Women’s Rights Information Center Dr. Esmilda Abreu-Hornbostel. Panelists will include author and parent Amy Eagan, Garden State Equality Executive Director Andrea Bowen, and transgender issues expert Jennifer Whitlock.

A “Second Chance” Session with the Keynote Response Panel – An extension of the morning’s response panel, this workshop will provide more in-depth conversations with the keynote response panelists. It will be an opportunity to discuss access programs, ways to provide educational opportunities for first-generation and underrepresented students, and how to leverage diversity in the classroom.

A Student-Led Action Session – Student leaders from several colleges and universities in NJ will facilitate a dynamic workshop to explore diversity and inclusion issues on college campuses.

An Afternoon Keynote Panel, “Robust Conversation about Diversity in Action,” will further explore how to take the learnings from the day’s conference and make an impact in the communities and organizations represented. The panel will feature a varied and expert group of speakers, including our President & CEO Elizabeth Williams-Riley, all of whom have a unique role in creating meaningful change in the world of diversity and inclusion.

This information-rich conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Ramapo University, 505 Ramapo Valley Rd in Mahwah, N.J. Registration rates are \$65, including breakfast and lunch, and \$35 for students. To register, please visit <http://www.ramapo.edu/diversity-conference/>

The American Conference on Diversity was founded in 1948 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Today the programs, services, and initiatives of the American Conference on Diversity are among the most important work focused on creating a more inclusive society. It is the unfinished business of living in a highly diverse nation: educating and empowering our next generation of leaders; enhancing our workplaces; and helping to create inclusive communities. The American Conference on Diversity builds on a historic mission and creates programs and activities relevant and vital to 21st Century life. It is a journey we can all take together. The American Conference on Diversity operates Regional Community Networks covering all of New Jersey.

Visit www.AmericanConferenceonDiversity.org to learn more.