



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
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Contact: Angela Daidone
201-684-7477
adaidon1@ramapo.edu

Ramapo Welcomes New Students during Winter Arching Ceremony

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Ramapo College of New Jersey welcomed on January 18 more than 300 incoming students for its spring 2016 semester. Friends, family and College faculty and staff greeted students during the annual New Student Assembly and Winter Arching Ceremony, a traditional ritual in which new students walk through the campus's iconic Arch to begin their college experience.

"Nothing makes me happier than to meet new students," said Ramapo College President Peter P. Mercer, who personally greeted all students as they passed through the Arch. "The experience you bring can only enrich what you will experience here at Ramapo."

The 309 incoming students for the spring include transfer, adult, re-admitted and first-time students.

The welcome ceremony kicked off a week-long schedule of events geared to help new students acclimate. Among the events scheduled are interactive workshops focusing on several important issues, social gatherings and the annual Student Involvement Fair which showcases the more than 100 clubs and organizations available on campus.

"We want students to challenge themselves and graduate with more than a college degree," said Christopher Romano, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. Upon graduation, the students, clad in their academic regalia, will again process under the Arch surrounded by well-wishers, marking the conclusion of their undergraduate experience.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, 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 eight 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.