



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Relations
Press Release
March 24, 2016

Contact: Angela Daidone
201-684-7477
adaidon1@ramapo.edu

Ramapo College Hosts New Jersey Council for Exceptional Children Spring Conference; Dr. Joseph Travolta Offers Keynote Address

MAHWAH, N.J. – Ramapo College of New Jersey welcomed more than 500 educators and students when it hosted the New Jersey Council for Exceptional Children (NJCEC) Spring 2016 Conference on March 14 in Friends Hall in the Scott Student Center. The annual event is the premiere special education conference for the state of New Jersey.

The conference included more than 40 breakout sessions on topics including: Creative Thinking and Neuroplasticity: Building 21st Century Skills in the Inclusive Classroom; Understanding Cognitive Data: Translating Assessment Results into Successful Academic Planning for Children; a variety of technology workshops from Apple; sessions for pre-school, PARCC testing, legal issues, etc.

Dr. Joseph Travolta, widely noted for his work with special education students in the field of filmmaking and creator of Inclusion Films, offered the keynote speaker. Travolta, a Bergen County native, has created camps that educate special needs students on film production and afford them the opportunity to explore their own creativity.

“I am truly pleased to be here at Ramapo College and honored that I am able to give back to so many who might not otherwise have an opportunity to explore career options,” said Dr. Travolta. “It’s all about the students. I am impressed with this conference and everyone who worked hard to organize the day’s event.”

As an added feature of this year’s conference, Travolta and his “crew” (former special needs students who are working in film production) met with high school teachers and students to discuss setting goals and how they can accomplish them as they prepare to leave the school setting.

Dr. Julie Norflus-Good, Director of the Masters of Arts in Special Education program at Ramapo College, serves as President of the NJCEC.

“This was an incredible opportunity for Ramapo College to be hosting this conference,” said Dr. Norflus-Good. “We were especially thrilled to have Dr. Travolta as the keynote and to have him speak directly with students and teachers.”

###

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes viewed as 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.