



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Office of Communications and Public Relations**  
**Press Release**  
**October 11, 2016**

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

## **Genocide Survivor to Provide Update on Events in Rwanda and Burundi**

MAHWAH, N.J. – Eugenie Mukeshimana, Rwandan genocide survivor and founder of the Genocide Survivors Support Network, will provide an update on developments in her native country and neighboring Burundi on Friday, November 4 at 2 p.m. in the Alumni Lounges (SC156-57) of the Robert A. Scott Student Center at Ramapo College of New Jersey. The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies will sponsor this event.

More than a quarter of a million people in Burundi have fled in terror as opposition militias plot their return. Without international assistance, a humanitarian disaster looms. Like neighboring Rwanda, Burundi is made up mainly of the Hutu and Tutsi groups among whom an atmosphere of insipient violence and fear fueled by the legacy of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda looms large.

Eugenie Mukeshimana was a bride who had studied accounting in high school and lived in Kigali, Rwanda's capital city. In 1994, when she was pregnant with her daughter, Mukeshimana's life turned upside down. An ethnic Tutsi, she and her husband went into hiding to stay alive as Hutu extremists began a campaign of genocide that would eventually claim a million lives.

When it was over, Mukeshimana and her daughter survived, but she lost her husband, father, sister and many other family members. Over the years, Mukeshimana worked to rebuild her life and came to the United States in 2001 where she attended college and founded the Genocide Survivors Support Network. A resident of Baltimore, Maryland, she travels around the United States to educate people about the genocide in Rwanda and serves as executive director of the network.

###

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top 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.