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## Ramapo College Enters into Transfer Partnership Program with Sussex County Community College

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Ramapo College of New Jersey and Sussex County Community College (SCCC) have agreed to partnership in the Archway to Ramapo program, effective fall 2017.

This collaborative partnership program agreement is specifically designed to create opportunities for a seamless two-year to four-year transition for students who begin their undergraduate studies at SCCC. The agreement also provides an alternate route to Ramapo College for students from Sussex county who may not initially meet admissions standards but will benefit from the A.A./A.S. degree at SCCC. The agreement also expands the work Ramapo is doing under its Educate IPASS grant, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, and will allow for a Ramapo transfer advisor to be available on-site weekly at Sussex.

"We are excited to strengthen the partnership that Ramapo has enjoyed with Sussex County Community College," said Christopher Romano, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs at Ramapo College. "The ultimate goal of this partnership is to increase student success. We know that if students receive strong advisement and an outlined pathway to a four-year degree, it increases the likelihood of their success. We're thrilled to work with Sussex Community College to deliver an integrated and streamlined experience."

Ramapo College and SCCC will collaborate in providing students with information and academic advising, as well as academic requirements and transfer process. Qualified SCCC students must have successfully earned an A.A. or A.S. degree and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

"This relationship with Ramapo College is precisely the kind of partnership that puts the needs of students first," stated Dr. Jon Connolly, SCCC president. "Too often, Higher Education creates barriers that serve other stakeholders, but leaves students' interests as an afterthought. This partnership will allow students to have confidence that there is a place for them at Ramapo when they have finished at SCCC."

Sussex County Community College, founded in 1982, is a public community college located in Newton, New Jersey. SCCC offers degree and certificate programs in liberal arts, fine arts, applied health sciences, and professional training.

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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 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.