



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

**Office of Marketing and Communications**

**Press Release**

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## **Ramapo College Students Help Create Top Business ‘Pitch’**

MAHWAH, N.J. – Ramapo College business students Matthew Chiusano and David Howard, both seniors in the Anisfield School of Business, helped develop a corporate presentation that was awarded several top honors at a recent entrepreneurial competition held at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

Howard also was part of the presentation team for BioCurrent Technologies, a sustainable nanomaterials company based in Upper Saddle River, which competed in the annual 1<sup>st</sup> Pitch Life Science New Jersey event. BioCurrent CEO Mark Miller, who led the presentation team, initiated the idea of collaborating with Ramapo College’s students.

Professor Rick Nunez, who teaches the Entrepreneurship course, explained that the students prepared an “Elevator Pitch” for BioCurrent.

“It was an assignment that was part of a larger, semester-long project in which students developed an idea, formed teams to translate the idea into a well-conceptualized business, and then crafted a business model around that business concept,” Nunez said, adding that teams then presented their models to the class in a 5-minute Elevator Pitch. The team with the most promising idea was then selected to represent Ramapo College in competition.

BioCurrent was named “Best in Show” by the audience and “Most Fundable” by the panel of investors.

“Both Matthew and Howard are hard-working, earnest students who’ve proven themselves inside and outside of the classroom. I was thrilled when they took on this challenge, although it involved a great deal more work than the regular in-class project,” said Nunez. “Both were a little nervous at the onset, as the scope of this project was outside of their comfort zone. However, their determination and the opportunity to work with a seasoned entrepreneur allowed them to overcome their initial anxiety. I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

1<sup>st</sup> Pitch NJ is sponsored by Mid Atlantic Bio Angels (MABA), a group of active investors who hear presentations from life science companies to determine potential investment possibilities.

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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.