



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
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Ramapo College's Pathways Program Honored by the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey and COMMERCE Magazine

MAHWAH, N.J. – Ramapo College of New Jersey was recognized by the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) and *COMMERCE Magazine* which recently hosted their 4th Annual Best Practices Conference on September 12.

The College's Pathways Program, a comprehensive curriculum designed to help students cultivate a rich understanding of the career development process, was recognized at the event which saluted innovation in the workplace. Susan A. Vallario, who serves as member of the College's Board of Trustees, said, "The Pathways Program at the College represents so much of what is distinctive about a Ramapo education. It provides our talented students with hands-on career mentorship that complements the essential critical thinking and analytical skills they have developed through their coursework and civic engagement."

Ramapo's submission is listed below:

Ramapo College's unique Pathways Program helps students gain a rich understanding of the career development process and promote self-awareness and experiential learning as they venture into life beyond college. The Pathways Program, designed by the dean and faculty in each of the college's five schools, offers personalized transition opportunities to help every student prepare for their post-graduation experience.

In coordination with a student's chosen area of study, the Pathways Program includes components required for degree completion, such as an approved cover letter, resume and professional profile; videotaped interview for work application; and a 30- and 60-second "elevator pitch" among others. Special Pathways coordinators within each school help students secure internships, focus on career, graduate and/or professional school, service organizations, and transition time from college to employment acceptance.

The success rate speaks for itself: Since its inception, 94 percent of the Pathways participants in Ramapo's Anisfield School of Business have successfully completed the program. Additionally, 87 percent of Ramapo alumni are employed or in graduate school within one year of graduation.

Business executives were asked to share their thoughts on winning strategies they use to distinguish their businesses in the marketplace. Best Practices Awards were given to company and business leaders selected by a blue-ribbon panel of judges assembled by CIANJ. The association represents more 900 corporate members and works to advance free market principles.

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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.