



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
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Ramapo College Welcomes 1,500 Incoming Students for Fall

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Inclement weather did not deter the festivities as Ramapo College of New Jersey welcomed approximately 1,500 incoming students to campus for the fall 2017 semester on Sunday, September 3.

Resident students got an early start, moving their belongings into assigned rooms despite a steady rain. By afternoon, the weather cleared and students, families and friends enjoyed a barbecue lunch and games in the Student Center, culminating with the traditional Arching Ceremony. President Peter P. Mercer greeted each student as they walked through the Arch, symbolizing their entry to Ramapo College. He touted the incoming group as “more diverse than ever.”

“This group of students comes from a wide applicant pool. And they are tempered by experience in a way that wasn’t always the case,” said President Mercer. “They worry about the state of the world and their place in it, and it’s our job to put those together.”

In addition to new and transfer students, this semester there are 46 international students, representing 12 countries. The countries represented are Algeria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Cote d’Ivoire, Denmark, Ghana, India, Israel, Italy, Nepal and Saudi Arabia.

“Ramapo College is a truly global community and we welcome students from all over the world,” said Rajeesh Adhikari, Director, International Students and Scholars at Ramapo College. “International students bring a lively mixture of cultures, ethnicities and languages to the campus, and Ramapo’s welcoming environment is sure to make all students feel at home.”

Welcome Week events are scheduled through Saturday, including meet-and-greet gatherings, breakfasts, outdoor movies, orientation sessions, and Opening Convocation featuring author Jon Ronson, whose book, “So You’ve Been Publicly Shamed” was the first-year reading selection.

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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. Ramapo also was named among the top three colleges overall in New Jersey and first among nine of the public institutions in the state by CollegeChoice.com in its 2017 rankings.

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.