



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
Press Release
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Acclaimed Performance Artist ALOK VAID-MENON to Give Keynote Address at 14th Annual Diversity Convocation at Ramapo College

MAHWAH, N.J. – Internationally acclaimed non-binary performance artist ALOK VAID-MENON will be the keynote speaker for Ramapo College’s 14th Annual Diversity Convocation scheduled for Wednesday, February 19 at 3 p.m. in the Sharp Theater of the Angelica and Russ Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts. Admission is free and open to the public.

Using poetry, comedy, lecture and design, ALOK’s (they/them) disciplinary work transveres themes of gender, race, mental health and fashion. ALOK appeared on HBO’s “The Trans List” and “Random Acts of Flyness.” They are the author of the poetry book *Femme in Public*, a meditation on anti-trans harassment, and *Beyond the Gender Binary*, a clarion call for a new approach to gender in the 21st century.

In 2019, ALOK was honored as one of NBC’s 30 LGBTQ change-makers and one of *Out Magazine’s* OUT100.

The event is sponsored by Ramapo College’s Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Compliance, whose mission is to ensure the community celebrates diversity and to create a favorable campus climate for all through programs and peer education.

For disability-related accommodations, please contact aquick@ramapo.edu

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state’s premier public liberal arts college and is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. The College is ranked #1 among New Jersey public institutions by College Choice, and is recognized as a top college by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Kiplinger’s*, Princeton Review and *Money* magazine, among others. Ramapo College

is also distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by CollegesofDistinction.com, boasts the best campus housing in New Jersey on Niche.com, and is designated a “Military Friendly College” in Victoria Media’s *Guide to Military Friendly Schools*.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor’s degrees in the arts, business, data science, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to master’s degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Data Science, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.