



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
Press Release
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Ramapo College's Sabrin Center for Free Enterprise to Host Virtual Town Hall on State's Economy, Covid-19 Issues

MAHWAH, N.J. – Ramapo College's Sabrin Center for Free Enterprise will be hosting a virtual town hall forum via WebEx on Tuesday, May 19 at 7 p.m. Topics of discussion will include New Jersey's economic outlook, the short- and long-term impact of the Covid-19-related lockdown on the state's budget, rising unemployment and other issues that have arisen resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. The forum, which is free and open to the public, will be moderated by Ramapo Professor of Finance Murray Sabrin.

To attend the forum, log on to WebEx via the following link:

<https://ramapo.webex.com/ramapo/j.php?MTID=mfb3292db5840493defa447400bfc3556>

Meeting number: 610 217 726
Password: MMeuZ3XpX73

Guest panelists include:

SENATOR LORETTA WEINBERG was elected to the New Jersey State Senate (District 37) in November 2005. She is currently the Senate Majority Leader and also serves on the Senate Judiciary Committee as well as the Senate Select Committee on New Jersey Transit. She is Vice Chair of the Legislative Oversight Committee and was Co-Chair of the select legislative committee investigating "Bridgegate." Currently, she also sits on the New Jersey Israel Commission, New Jersey Historical Commission and State Legislative Services Commission. She has been appointed by the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court to an ad hoc committee to look at domestic violence and the court system. Weinberg has been in the lead on every LGBT advancement in New Jersey throughout her legislative career, including marriage equality, transgender equality, and sweeping anti-discrimination and anti-hate crimes laws. She has sponsored numerous bills throughout her career and has devoted many hours to her community and to local, state-wide, and national organizations that seek to improve the lives of men, women, and children.

SENATOR MICHAEL DOHERTY (District 23) has been among the most outspoken members of the New Jersey Legislature in questioning the constitutionality of various executive orders issued by Governor Phil Murphy in response to COVID-19. For example, he called for the governor to allow religious services to resume outdoors, which would represent the least restrictive step necessary to safeguard public health while protecting First Amendment rights. Similarly, he challenged an executive order of the governor that directly impairs private contracts between landlords and tenants, in direct violation of the New Jersey Constitution. He has not shied from offering practical solutions to vexing problems, including massive backlogs in unemployment claims, sponsoring bipartisan legislation to cut red tape to allow State workers to be reassigned to where they are needed.

SENATOR VIN GOPAL (District 11) is a lifelong resident of Monmouth County, born at Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune and raised in Freehold. He is a proud to be a small-business owner, having built his business from the ground up, now with 14 employees. Vin is also the Founder and President of a 501c(3) organization dedicated to helping Monmouth County charities and individuals in need. He serves as Senate Majority Conference Leader and Chairman of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee. He also serves as Vice-Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee and as a member of the Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee.

SENATOR DECLAN J. O'SCANLON JR. (District 13) has served since 2018. He previously served in the New Jersey General Assembly from 2012 to 2018. Prior to the 2011 redistricting, he represented the 12th legislative District in the Assembly from 2008 to 2012. He serves on the Joint Committee of the Public Schools, Budgets and Appropriations Committee, Community and Urban Affairs Committee and Law and Public Safety Committee. He earned dual bachelor's degrees in finance and psychology from Monmouth University in 1986. He owns a telecommunications consulting firm specializing in wireless infrastructure projects and is also president of Love Inc., a faith-based charitable organization.

ANTHONY RUSSO is President of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ), a business association representing the interests of more than 900 companies. In this capacity, Mr. Russo is responsible for all aspects of the association. Mr. Russo is also the CEO and publisher of COMMERCE Magazine. COMMERCE magazine is a business to business magazine with a readership of more than 40,000 professionals. Prior to his current position, Mr. Russo served as Executive Vice President of Government Affairs and Communications for CIANJ as well as Deputy Executive Director of the National Lime Association in Washington, D.C., representing the interests of mining companies producing calcium oxide (aka lime) at the federal level. He began his government affairs career when he served as Director of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs for the Chemistry Council of NJ, representing chemical and pharmaceutical companies in Trenton on legislative and environmental matters.

CHARLES STEINDEL is Resident Scholar at Ramapo College's Anisfield School of Business, and editor of *Business Economics*. From 2010 to 2014 he was the first Chief Economist of the New Jersey Department of the Treasury, with responsibility for economic and revenue projections and analysis of state economic policy. He came to the Treasury after a long career at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, where he played a leading role in forecasting and policy advice. In 2011 he received the William F. Butler Award from the New York Association for Business Economics, is a fellow of NABE and of the Money Marketeers of New York University, and has received several awards for articles published in *Business Economics*. He is a member of the panel for the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's Survey of Professional Forecasters and of the Committee on Research in Income and Wealth. He has published

papers in a range of areas and is the author of *Economic Indicators for Professionals: Putting the Statistics into Perspective*.

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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.