

## **RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

**Press Release: May 25, 2022**

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### **Unique Ramapo@PCCC Program to Award Degrees to First Student Cohort**

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Ramapo College of New Jersey awarded degrees to its first cohort of students who participated in the innovative partnership program with Passaic County Community College, [Ramapo@PCCC](#). The program enables Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree holders of selected programs to continue their education toward a bachelor's degree from Ramapo while attending classes on the PCCC campus.

Seven students, who hail from Passaic, Paterson and Wayne, earned their degrees in one of three majors: Social science, psychology, and humanities and global studies. "This is especially notable because these students not only engaged in a new program and a new partnership but did so during a very challenging time," said Patricia Laprey, director of the degree completion program at Ramapo College.

Laprey applauded the collaboration between the faculty at Ramapo and PCCC, who worked together to create the third-year curricula offered in each major. "Their collaborative and student-centered efforts created a seamless academic pathway for these students to earn their Ramapo bachelor's degree."

The innovative Ramapo@PCCC 3+1 programs are for associate degree graduates of and current students enrolled in humanities, criminal justice and psychology at PCCC who wish to attain a bachelor's degree in humanities and global studies, social science or psychology at Ramapo College. Students with an associate's degree take their third year of Ramapo's bachelor curriculum at PCCC and complete the fourth year of coursework on Ramapo's Mahwah campus.

"This partnership builds on both Ramapo and Passaic's commitment to two principles: affordability and student success," said Dr. Christopher Romano, vice president of enrollment management and student affairs for Ramapo College. "Seeing this first cohort of graduates of the Ramapo@PCCC program is an exciting milestone in our partnership and we cannot wait to also celebrate the successes they experience after graduation."

Earlier this year, PCCC opened its [University Center on the Paterson campus](#). Funded by the PROSPER grant, a federal Title V grant, the University Center will offer the Ramapo@PCCC program a presence on campus, where Ramapo staff will be co-located with PCCC staff, to pursue the goal of propelling students towards bachelor's degrees and good jobs.

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## About Ramapo College

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 comprehensive college is situated among the beautiful Ramapo Mountains, is within commuting distance to New York City, was named one of the 50 Most Beautiful College Campuses in America by *CondeNast Traveler*, and boasts the best on-campus housing in New Jersey per Niche.com.

Ramapo College provides its students with individualized attention, mentorship, and supports; hands-on learning; and a range of opportunities for service and leadership development. Its graduation and retention rates exceed national averages and it places approximately 1,000 students per year in internships in New York City. The College is ranked #1 among New Jersey public institutions by *College Choice*; is recognized as the state's top college on the list of Best Disability Schools by *Great Value Colleges*; is designated a "Military Friendly College" in Victoria Media's *Guide to Military Friendly Schools*; and is recognized as a top college by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Kiplinger's*, *Princeton Review* and *Money* magazine, among others.

Ramapo College's over 40,000 alumni are the confident, intellectually curious, self-aware, and humble people who are highly sought after and who make a positive impact at local, national, and global levels. Ramapo College is distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by CollegesofDistinction.com. Every student at Ramapo is enrolled in its unique and award winning Pathways Program which equips and empowers students, across the continuum of their academic career, to secure internships, pursue graduate/professional school, and/or enter the job market.

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, Applied Mathematics, Business Administration, Contemporary Instructional Design, Computer Science, Creative Music Technology, Data Science, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education, as well as a Doctor of Nursing Practice.