

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Press Release: April 11, 2023

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Ramapo College presents annual Mack Brandon's Gospel Explosion

Ramapo College professor Mack Brandon will be returning with his choir and band to the Berrie Center for his annual Gospel Explosion on Saturday, April 22 at 8 p.m.

Brandon, a music professor at Ramapo College for more than twenty years, has worked with musical legend Ben E. King, The Drifters, Average White Band, and the Supremes. His choir features the best voices from around the state, including Ramapo College students.

Brandon promises a night full of joyous gospel music from various genres that he is excited to share with the audience. "I see the concert as being more than a simple presentation - it is a time of sharing. In fact, every ticket holder is automatically a choir member. If you know a song, sing along!" he said.

As a community resource, the Berrie Center hosts a range of performances year-round including compelling student theater productions and musical performances as well as countless talented professional musicians, theater groups, and performance artists. The Center is generously supported by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Events are open to the public with discounts for children 17 and under, and feature easy access and free parking. For exact event information and to purchase tickets, please visit ramapo.edu/berriecenter.

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About Ramapo College

Ramapo College of New Jersey (RCNJ) develops responsible leaders who serve as empathetic problem solvers and ethical change agents across all sectors. The College's unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its liberal arts core, its size (approximately 5,500 students), and its setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border provide an optimal environment for individualized, student-centered learning and leadership development. RCNJ's designation as "New Jersey's Public Liberal Arts College" by the State legislature is the foundation from which the College's commitment to an accessible and transformative undergraduate and graduate education is realized.

Graduation and retention rates of RCNJ students exceed national averages and, as just one of many markers of student success, the superior rates are made possible by the College's provision of impactful mentorship and student well-being supports, hands-on learning, and a range of opportunities for service and leadership development. In fact, Ramapo is ranked #1

among New Jersey public institutions by *College Choice* and is recognized as the State's top college on the list of Best Disability Schools by *Great Value Colleges*. Further commendations include designation as: a "Military Friendly College" in *Victory Media's Guide to Military Friendly Schools*, and as a leading college by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Kiplinger's*, *Princeton Review*, and *Money Magazine*, among others.

Established in 1969, *CondeNast Traveler* named Ramapo as one of the 50 Most Beautiful College Campuses in America. The barrier-free campus occupies 300 acres and is home to 52 bachelor's degree programs spanning the arts, business, data science, humanities, education, nursing, social work, social sciences, and the sciences. In addition, the College 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. Every degree program is designed and delivered through the collaborative and interdisciplinary efforts of student-centered faculty scholars and staff who are committed to serving the public good through the delivery of an academically rigorous, inclusive, and transformative collegiate experience.

Distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by *CollegesofDistinction.com*, every student at Ramapo is enrolled in the College's unique and award-winning Pathways Program which equips and empowers students, across the continuum of their student career, to secure internships, pursue graduate/professional school, and/or enter/re-enter the job market. As a result, Ramapo College's over 40,000 alumni are 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. As community leaders, engaged citizens, and professional colleagues, Ramapo College alumni serve as the change agents necessary to innovate, problem solve, and elevate the human condition in NJ and beyond.