With Gratitude, Herewith is a Sampling of the Many Exceptional Endeavors Recently Advanced by Ramapo College Students, Faculty, and Staff

November 2021

Civic Engagement. Recently, Ramapo College took part in Tufts University’s Jonathan M. Tish College of Civic Life, Institute for Democracy and Higher Education’s National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) campus survey on student voter participation. The voter participation rate among Ramapo students in the 2020 election was 77.1%, 11.1% higher than the national average for campuses (66%). Further, Ramapo’s participation in 2021 was 22.7% higher than in 2016.

Compassion. As part of Violence Awareness Week, the Office of Violence Prevention held Take Back the Night on Thursday, October 14th. The event was supported by the Women’s Center & LGBTQ+ Services, Health and Counseling Services, EDIC/Title IX, and our community partner healingSPACE. Approximately 80 Ramapo community members attended the opening dinner and table fair, followed by survivors of interpersonal violence sharing their experiences with sexual assault, domestic violence, and hate crimes. Then, approximately 50 people attended the campus Take Back the Night March, ending with a closing candlelight vigil at the Arch.

Generosity. The 4th floor community wall in the Learning Commons has raised $100,000 and the Foundation will transfer roughly $800,000 to the College to support scholarships, programs and capital projects by the end of 2021.

Honor. The Black Student Union and Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Compliance partnered during Black Solidarity Week to help clean up the Hopper Slave Cemetery and, alongside students, faculty, and staff coordinated and led an “Honoring Our Ancestors Vigil” at the historic site.

Advocacy. Dylan Heffernan, Assistant Director of the We Care Program and Community Service; Alexandra Pryor, We Care Intern and BSW student; and Dr. Nicole Videla, Director of Educational Opportunity Fund and Academic Success, represented Ramapo College earlier this month as part of a program delivered by the NJ Office of the Secretary of Higher Education in partnership with The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice. Pryor, Videla, and Heffernan shared institutional best practices and recommendations for support/training to help address basic needs insecurities among students statewide.
**Academic Excellence.** Ramapo College’s Nursing program has achieved the highest first-time National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) pass rate amongst all Nursing programs in New Jersey.

**Collaboration.** The Office of the Provost, with leadership from students and, with support from the Ramapo Foundation, has partnered with Laptop Upcycle, a division of the Montclair, N.J.-based not-for-profit organization HackNCraft NJ, Inc., to repair and refurbish unwanted laptops for distribution among students who otherwise do not have access to computers for their schoolwork. Laptop Upcycle @Ramapo will open its doors this winter.

**Guidance.** Mr. Joe Connell, Assistant Vice President of Student Success, was elected to serve as a Conference Advisory Committee member on the 2022 Assessment, Persistence, and Data Analytics Conference for the 2022 NASPA Conferences on Student Success in Higher Education (SSHE). Joe will join a group of volunteers led by NASPA professionals, who will provide guidance in planning the SSHE Conference.

**Public Service.** Ramapo College's Small Business Development Center’s Economic Recovery Task Force received the NJ Governor's Jefferson Award. The award, founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and Sam Beard, is America's top honor for public service. Ramapo senior Rohan Dhote, who served on Task Force since Spring 2021, was recognized with the New Jersey Business & Industry Association's (NJBIA) Rising Star Award and Regional SBDC Director, Mr. Vincent Vicari, was commended as one of the NJBIA's Executives of the Year.

**Sportsmanship.** The Ramapo College field hockey team have been crowned the 2021 ECAC Tournament Champions after a thrilling 2-1 victory over Fairleigh Dickinson University-Florham. The Roadrunners, who were the #1 overall seed in the tournament, wrap up the season with a program best record of 15-7 overall.

Be bold. Be kind. Be good teammates.