



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

o. (201) 684-7271

e: sga@ramapo.edu | ramapo.edu/sga

Senate Bill

Act Number: 2022-8

30 November 2022

Introduced by: Senator Ivonne Ovalles

Proposed by: Senator Ivonne Ovalles

Whereas: The Student Government Association (SGA) of Ramapo College of New Jersey is the liaison body to the Faculty, Staff, Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Governors of Ramapo College of New Jersey;

Whereas: The Ramapough Lunaape people were originally native to the Ramapough mountains and the indigenous areas of Ramsey and Ringwood;

Whereas: Ramapo College rests on the foothills of the Ramapough Mountains, occupied by the Ramapough Lunaape Nation;

Whereas: The Ramapough Lunaape Nation is a state-recognized tribe in New Jersey;

Whereas: The Ramapough Lunaape Nation has suffered from terminal illnesses due to toxic contamination and poor waste management;

Whereas: The Ramapough Lunaape Nation now encompasses Passaic County NJ, as well as Warwick and surrounding areas in NY and NJ;

Whereas: In spite of the dreadful trauma endured by the Ramapough Lunaape, they still stand strong to this day. The nation is telling their story and sharing awareness with scholars and interested parties;

Whereas: Ramapo College of New Jersey's Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Compliance acknowledges that "On behalf of Ramapo College of New Jersey, we hereby acknowledge our presence on the traditional and ancestral land of the Ramapo Munsee Lenape peoples. In addition, we honor and pay respect to the contributions, courage, and sacrifices of the Ramapo Munsee Lenape people and their Ancestors. Consistent with our values of an open, inclusive and supportive community, it is our responsibility to acknowledge and honor Ramapo College's relationship with the Ramapo Munsee Lenape peoples.";

Whereas: It is important to acknowledge that diversity, equity and inclusion are essential in weaving in an inclusive environment in the RCNJ community;

Whereas: The ancestral ground that our school currently resides on deserves to be recognized as the sacred ancestral territory of the still native inhabitants of the Ramapough Lunaape Nation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The SGA formally and respectfully acknowledges that we are conducting our meetings and events on the ancestral and traditional Indigenous territory of the Ramapough Lunaape Nation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The SGA will conduct land acknowledgement at the beginning of each General and Senate Meeting that will read as follows: “SGA respectfully acknowledges that we are hosting our meeting on the ancestral and traditional Indigenous territory of the Ramapough Lunaape Nation.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The SGA will work with EDIC, Facilities & Capital Planning to create a physical plaque formalizing the land acknowledgement that will be displayed in a prominent location on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The SGA will work with the Web Administration & EDIC teams to display the College’s Land Acknowledgment more prominently on the college’s web pages, as currently the acknowledgement is not easily accessible in its current location.

Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya

Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya
President '22 - '23

Ashley Gomez

Ashley Gomez
Senate President '22 - '23