This letter of agreement delineates the terms of understanding between Ramapo College of New Jersey (RCNJ) and the Bergen County Community College Nursing Program regarding a program that would facilitate the achievement of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from RCNJ by students/graduates of the BCC Associate in Applied Science Program in Nursing.

RN/BSN ARTICULATED PROGRAM BETWEEN RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY AND BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AGREEMENT made and entered into on 14/10/15 by and between Ramapo College of New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as RCNJ and Bergen County Community College, hereinafter referred to as BCC,

WHEREAS, RCNJ is a baccalaureate and master’s degree granting college dedicated to the provision of instruction in the humanities; the natural, behavioral and social sciences; business, education and social work; and health professions;

and

WHEREAS, BCC is an associate’s degree granting community college dedicated to offering a comprehensive set of affordable, accessible, high-quality credit and non-credit courses as well as degree and non-degree programs;

and

WHEREAS, RCNJ and BCC wish to establish a cooperative agreement for the education of nursing professionals;

and

WHEREAS, RCNJ and BCC wish to conduct strong educational programs grounded in the strengths of both institutions without needless duplication of resources;

NOW THEREFORE, RCNJ and BCC wish to confirm in writing the terms of mutual and individual responsibilities related to the articulated program of education leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

I. General Description of the Program

A. Design of the Program: RCNJ proposes a plan whereby nursing students who have earned their associate’s degree in nursing from BCC can enroll in the RCNJ BSN program through a program of study that includes courses taught at BCC and courses at RCNJ. The program will allow transfer of up to 88 credits from BCC and require that all BSN graduates satisfy the upper-level nursing and Theoretical and Applied Science school core courses as required of all RCNJ nursing graduates. Students wishing to transfer a total of 88 credits from BCC must complete those credits at BCC before matriculating at RCNJ.
B. **Routes of Entry:** BCC students who meet the established admissions criteria will need to apply through the RCNJ Office of Adult and Graduate Admissions once they complete their associate’s degree. All students must meet the standard transfer admissions requirements. For seamless entry to the program with 88 credits, BCC students must complete those credits (AAS degree plus the additional credits outlined below) before matriculating at RCNJ. This will allow them to maintain financial aid eligibility at BCC and continue to make Satisfactory Academic Progress.

C. **The Program:** Depending on the number of courses taken by the student, the program can be completed in 3 semesters by those students entering with the 88 credits. See below for a full time load (all courses are 4 credits). Many of these courses are available in an on-line format.

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<td>NURS 312 Nursing</td>
<td>School Core (Science in Cultural Perspective)</td>
<td>NURS 330 Health Assessment Across the Lifespan</td>
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<td>Informatics</td>
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<td>NURS 316 Pathophysiology</td>
<td>School Core (Science in Cultural Perspective)</td>
<td>NURS 425 Community Centered Nursing</td>
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<td>NURS 325 Nursing</td>
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<td>Research and EBP</td>
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<td>NURS 460 Clinical</td>
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<td>Management</td>
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Graduates of BCC can start in either spring or fall semesters.

**Summary of credits for the degree program:**

- AAS degree at BCC: 66
- Additional credits at BCC: 22
- Nursing courses at RCNJ: 32
- School core at RCNJ: 8
- Total: 128

**AAS degree at BCC:** Students will follow the AAS degree program at BCC. For the six credits of humanities electives in that degree program, students will select courses that will transfer to RCNJ to fulfill the following general-education requirements:

- International
- Intercultural North America

NJ Transfer lists courses that meet these requirements.

**Additional Credits:** Students should take 22 credits in addition to the AAS credits, the nursing courses at RCNJ, and the school core at RCNJ. Students should take one course from each of the six following liberal-arts categories, which are fundamental to the mission of RCNJ, and 4 additional credits of their choosing.
Mathematics: MAT 150
Social Problems: SOC 113
History: any HIS course
Literature: any 200-level LIT course
Social Science: any POL, PSY (above 101), or SOC (other than 101 and 113) course
Arts and Humanities: any ART, MUS, PHR, or THR course

Nursing courses at RCNJ: Students will complete the upper-level nursing courses in the RN-to-BSN degree program at RCNJ as indicated in the College Catalog.

School core at RCNJ: Students will take two science in cultural perspective courses as part of the core of the School of Theoretical and Applied Science at RCNJ. The College Catalog lists the courses that meet this requirement.

Academic Advising
RCNJ will work with the nursing faculty at BCC to identify a common introductory nursing course in which an overview of the program and an initial advisement session with the RCNJ advisor can occur.

Students in the BCC AAS Program who have identified that they wish to progress to the RCNJ BSN and are not pursuing a full-time BCC nursing load will have access to the RCNJ nursing advisor to assist them in general education course selection as they progress through the BCC curriculum. Students must be in satisfactory academic standing in the nursing program at BCC.

Any course taken at RCNJ will be a RCNJ course. Students will be billed by RCNJ at RCNJ rates and will be responsible for paying RCNJ. RCNJ will handle the financial aid process for these students.

Advisement and Recruitment
Ramo College will designate a coordinator to advise these students and serves as a Bergen Community College liaison.

Ramo College will advertise and recruit each semester at Bergen Community College. A Ramo College representative will go to Bergen Community each semester and provide students with an overview of these degree programs.

RCNJ College Graduation Requirements
This MOU allows for exceptions to RCNJ’s current transfer and residency requirements for students who transfer to RCNJ through this agreement. All upper-level nursing requirements and Theoretical and Applied Science school core courses must be RCNJ courses to ensure that the final 40 credits of a student’s program courses are taught by RCNJ faculty.

Program Quality Control
RCNJ and BCC will establish a committee to monitor the course equivalencies as well as academic preparation of students to insure each program continues to meet its professional standards. The BCC Associate Dean of Nursing and the Assistant Dean of RCNJ’s Nursing Program will meet twice a year
with the advisors from each program to review the progress of the program as well as processes, procedures, and student learning outcomes.

**SELF-INSURANCE BY INSTITUTION** - INSTITUTION is an agency of the State of New Jersey. Any agreement or arrangement signed or entered into on behalf of the State of New Jersey by a State official or employee shall be subject to all of the provisions of the New Jersey Torts Claims Act, N.J.S.A 59:1-1 et seq., the New Jersey Contractual Liability Act, N.J.S.A 59:13-1, et seq., and the availability of appropriations. The State of New Jersey does not carry public liability insurance, but the liability of the State and the obligations of the State to be responsible for tort claims against its agencies and employees are covered under the terms and provisions of the New Jersey Tort Claims Act. The Act also creates a special self-insurance fund and provides for payment and claims against the State of New Jersey against its employees for which the State of New Jersey is obligated to indemnify against tort claims which arise out of the performance of their duties. Claims against the University or its employees should be referred for handling to the Attorney General, Division of Law, Claims Service Section, Richard Hughes Complex, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. Furthermore, the State of New Jersey self-funds for Workers Compensation and Disability.


B. **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT** – The parties agree to comply with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), P.L. 101-336, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq. 1.4

C. **COMPLIANCE - LAWS** – The parties shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations applicable to the contract.

D. **SUBCONTRACTING OR ASSIGNMENT** - The Agreement may not be subcontracted or assigned in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of both parties. Such consent, if granted, shall not relieve either party of any of its responsibilities under the contract.

E. **MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS** - The parties shall maintain records associated with the performance of this contract in accordance with the applicable provisions of the NJ State Record Retention Policy. Such records shall be made available to either party upon request for purposes of conducting an audit or for ascertaining other information.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement on the day and date below.

Bergen Community College

By: ___________________________  
Dr. B. Kaye Walter  
President

Ramapo College

By: ___________________________  
Dr. Peter Philip Mercer  
President

Institutional Contact Person:  
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Ramapo College