



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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**QuickTakes!**

## **Ramapo Receives a Million Dollar Grant to Provide Recovery Housing and a Comprehensive Drug-Recovery Program**

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Ramapo College of New Jersey will be receiving a \$999,408 grant to provide recovery housing and a comprehensive program for students who are recovering from drug and/or alcohol use. As the region's premier public liberal arts college, the vision of Ramapo is to prepare its students to be successful leaders for a changing world. Thanks to this grant, the college can further enhance that commitment by providing a safe and healthy environment for students in recovery.

Dubbed the "Roadrunner Collegiate Recovery" (RCR) Program, the college will offer a comprehensive program that includes recovery housing for up to 10 residential students and additional resources to help reduce the stigma associated with the disease of addiction on its campus.

"Ramapo College prides itself on its commitment to the development of the individual student and this grant furthers that commitment," said Dr. Peter P. Mercer, President of Ramapo College. "With access to a recovery program and recovery housing, our recovering students will find structure, direction, and self-awareness while working to maintain a balance between abstinence, academics, and healthy living."

Providing a comprehensive recovery program will allow students to pursue their education without sacrificing their recovery efforts. RCR will include screening and intervention services, access to confidential psychological and addiction counseling services, and substance-free activities.

Additional support efforts will include programs such as mentoring, academic support services, recovery allies, crisis management and relapse prevention, seminars and support groups.

Offering on-campus recovery initiatives is a growing national trend, as colleges and universities are increasingly concerned with how to help students to maintain recovery strategies or to prevent them from addiction in the first place. According to the 2015

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National Survey on Drug Use and Health conducted by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 12.5 percent of college students, age 18-22, reported heavy alcohol use, with 37.9 percent reporting having experienced binge drinking at one point.

“Our campus has taken considerable steps to advance its safety and prevention programs and this grant is another step in our commitment to student wellness,” said Dr. Judy Green, director of the College’s Center for Health and Counseling. “The college is currently in the midst of its NCAA Choices for Change grant, focused on prevention efforts for high-risk students. Last year, Ramapo was designated a stigma-free campus. Being able to offer this recovery program will help to destigmatize students who struggle with substance use disorders,” Dr. Green said.

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state’s premier public liberal arts college. Ranked among the top colleges in the region by *College Choice* and recognized by, among others, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Princeton Review*, *Colleges of Distinction* and, also designated by Victory Media as a “Military Friendly College,” Ramapo College is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor’s degrees in the arts, business, 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 degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.