



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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QuickTakes!

Ramapo College Student is Sworn in as a Board Member of NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)

August 7, 2018



At left, Geoffrey Stark, Esq., Deputy Attorney General, State of New Jersey, with Stephan Lally at the swearing-in ceremony.

Ramapo College Student Government President Stephan Lally was sworn in as a board member of the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) in a ceremony at the organization's office in Hamilton Township, NJ on Thursday, July 25, 2018. Stephan qualified for a one-year term with voting privileges on the HESAA board, when he became chair of the HESAA Student Advisory Committee.

"It is an honor and privilege to be able to continue my service to the students of Ramapo College thanks to my seat on the HESAA Board. I am looking forward to working with the HESAA Student Advisory Committee and the Student Advisory Committee Vice Chair Michael Scardina, as well as HESAA Executive Director David

Socolow in making higher education in New Jersey more affordable and accessible for students across the state," said Stephan, Ramapo class of 2020, and resident of Woodbridge, NJ.

HESAA is the only New Jersey state agency with the sole mission of providing students and families with financial and informational resources for students to pursue their education beyond high school. Stephan said he was "particularly excited" to be a HESAA board member during the Murphy Administration, because the governor has put affordable higher education at the forefront of its agenda.

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Kean University
Montclair State University*

*New Jersey City University
Ramapo College of New Jersey
Rowan University*

*Stockton University
Thomas Edison State University
William Paterson University*

“The financial challenges for some students can be more overwhelming than the academic challenges,” said Stephan who, in his Ramapo Student Government role, helped implement a student food pantry that is going live in the fall, 2018.

HESAA programs and services include need-based and merit-based programs. Among them are New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant (TAG); part-time TAG for community college students; the Governor’s Urban Scholarship Program; the Governor’s Industry Vocations Scholarships and the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS and NJ STARS II).

A political science major, Stephan, in addition to serving as student government president, is a member of the Ramapo College Student Leader’s Trip to Ghana for two years and served this year as a student trip leader. Earlier this year, he was a recipient of the 2018 Outstanding Student Leadership Award for Second-Year Students. His interest in state government operations was elevated to the level of passion when he landed an internship in the NJ 19th District Legislative offices of Senator Joseph Vitale, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez.

“The students and families of New Jersey’s colleges and universities will be well-represented through Stephan’s service with HESAA,” said Ramapo College President Peter P. Mercer. “His appointment to the HESAA board is emblematic of the rich talent and incredible capacity of the several hundred thousand undergraduate students enrolled in institutions across our state.”