



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

March 31, 2017

WHEREAS, Bergen County Community College (herein referred to as BCCC and Ramapo College of New Jersey (herein referred to as RCNJ) have come together to create a guaranteed transfer initiative known as the Archway to Ramapo program.

NOW, as and for a Memorandum of Agreement, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. RCNJ and BCCC have agreed to partnership in the Archway to Ramapo program which is described in full in appendix A.

Signed this 31st Day of March by

Dr. B. Kaye Walter, PhD

President

William Mullaney, PhD

Academic Vice President

Bergen Community College

Peter P. Mercer, PhD

President

Ramapo College of New Jersey

## **Appendix A: Archway to Ramapo College: Partnership with Bergen County Community College**

**Goal:** To further strengthen the partnership between Ramapo College of New Jersey (hereafter referred to as RCNJ ) and Bergen County Community College (hereafter referred to as BCCC) that does the following:

- 1.) Creates opportunities for a seamless two year to four year degree transition for students who begin their undergraduate career at BCCC.
- 2.) Seeks to strengthen the recruitment pipeline for both RCNJ and BCCC among Bergen county students;
- 3.) Provides an alternative route to RCNJ for students from Bergen county who may not meet RCNJ admissions standards initially, but can benefit from the AA/AS degree at BCCC.

**Process:** RCNJ will provide students that apply to RCNJ but do not meet initial admissions requirements the opportunity to participate in the Archway to Ramapo program which begins at BCCC. For those students that choose to pursue the program, they will be guaranteed admission to Ramapo upon completion of the A.A or A.S Degree at BCCC.

**Admissions Criteria:** In the initial pilot of this program, students selected for the Archway to Ramapo program must meet the following criteria in order to be guaranteed admission to Ramapo:

- 1.) Students must complete the Associate of Arts or the Associate of Science Degree at BCCC. The Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) degree will be considered on a case by case basis.
- 2.) Students must maintain a minimum 2.75GPA from BCCC.
- 3.) Students must major, at RCNJ, in the following approved majors:
  - a. African Studies, American Studies, History, International Studies, Liberal Studies, Literature, Literature/Creative Writing, Political Science, Spanish Language Studies, Accounting, Business Administration, Business Administration/Finance, Business Administration/Management, Business Administration/Marketing, Economics, Information Tech. Mgmt, International Business, Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering Physics, Environmental Science, Integrated Science Studies, Integrated Science Studies/Business Administration, Integrated Science Studies/Public Policy, Integrated Science Studies/Science Journalism, Integrated Science Studies/Science Technology, Mathematics, Visual Arts, Visual Arts/Art History, Visual Arts/Drawing and Painting, Visual Arts/Electronic Animation Arts, Visual Arts/ Photography, Visual Arts/Sculpture, Communication Arts, Communication Arts/Digital Filmmaking, Communication Arts/Global Comm. and Media, Communication Arts/Journalism, Communication Arts/Visual Comm. Design, Communication Arts/Writing, Music, Music/Music Industry, Music/Music Performance, Music/Music Production, Music/Music Studies, Theater,

Theater/Acting, Theater/Design and Technical Theater, Theater/Director/Stage Management, Theater/ Theater Studies, Environmental Studies, Law and Society, Psychology, Sociology, Sociology/Criminology, and Social Work

**The Application Process:** Students who are offered the opportunity or participate in the Archway to Ramapo will inform RCNJ of their interest to participate. RCNJ will collect this information and then share it with BCCC. Once students matriculate at BCCC, they will be assigned a RCNJ advisor who will communicate with them regularly to advise them on RCNJ matters including course equivalents, financial aid, deadlines, etc.

Prior to completing the Associate's Degree at BCCC, students who will be transferring to RCNJ as part of the Archway to RCNJ will indicate their intention to transfer to their assigned RCNJ advisor. After that occurs, RCNJ and BCCC will work collaboratively to automate the transfer process for the student. Accordingly:

- The RCNJ advisor working with the students will create an application for the student;
- BCCC will provide the RCNJ office of admissions with transcripts upon request for each student transferring under the Archway to Ramapo program.
- The application fee will be waived by RCNJ for students transferring through the Archway to Ramapo program.

**BCCC Admissions Opportunity:** BCCC will include on its application for students the option to apply into the Archway to Ramapo program which will guarantee students who apply to BCCC directly the same opportunity afforded to those who apply directly to RCNJ. BCCC will collect those names and inform RCNJ the number of students, and majors of those students, after BCCC's census date.

**Connection to previous MOU:** As outlined in a previous MOU between the two institutions, RCNJ will agree to provide staffing to support and advise these students of transfer information and relevant RCNJ information. The advisor, in collaboration with the office of admissions, will regularly visit BCCC to increase the RCNJ presence on BCCC's campus as well as create direct connections with RCNJ. In turn, BCCC will provide office space and other administrative services necessary in order to allow the RCNJ advisor to carry out the functions aligned with this initiative.