

## **RVCC RECEIVES MAGAZINE'S FIRST HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY (HEED) AWARD**

Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) has received the first Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. As a winner of the HEED award—a national award honoring U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion—RVCC will be featured along with 47 other recipients in *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine's December 2012 issue.

"RVCC is honored to be the only college in New Jersey selected for *INSIGHT Into Diversity's* Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award," said RVCC President Casey Crabill. "The College serves a diverse community and we are committed to offering a welcoming environment to all students, faculty, staff and the public. It's important that all students' educational experiences include gaining a better understanding of ideas, values and cultural experiences that are different from their own," Dr. Crabill continued.

*INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine selected RVCC based on its exemplary diversity and inclusion initiatives, and includes all aspects of diversity such as gender, race, ethnicity, veterans, people with disabilities and members of the LGBT community. RVCC's many diversity-related initiatives include:

- Establishing the Office of Multicultural Affairs
- Forming the College's Diversity Council to ensure a welcoming and inclusive climate on campus
- Hosting such activities as the CRECER program (sponsored by Orgullo Latino Club) for Latino high school students, the Boys to Men Conference for African American high school students, and the Malcolm Bernard Historically Black Colleges and Universities Fair
- Educating the community through the Institute for Holocaust & Genocide Studies and the Paul Robeson Institute for Ethics, Leadership and Social Justice
- Presenting a variety of multicultural awareness programs focusing on such themes as Hispanic Heritage Month, Asian Pacific Islanders Month, LGBT, Black History Month, Women's History Month and MLK Day of Service
- Offering LGBT Ally Training Programs for faculty, staff and students
- Creating K-12 academic partnerships with underserved populations

RVCC also was recently named to the 2013 Military Friendly Schools® list by Victory Media.

"We felt that Raritan Valley understands the importance of diversity and inclusion within their faculty and staff. The recruitment resources that have been developed, welcoming sessions with prospective job candidates, and in-depth faculty diversity training are exemplary recruiting strategies. As the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, I find the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Institute to be a unique and impressive project that underscores why we must remember the past and teach the importance of cultural competence for the future. In this respect, Raritan

Valley Community College serves as a role model for all colleges and universities, large and small," said Lenore Pearlstein, Publisher, *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine.

"We hope the HEED award serves as a reminder that diversity and inclusion must remain priorities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century higher education landscape. Every college and university should recognize the importance of diversity and inclusion as being part of their everyday life on campus," Pearlstein continued. "Our students of today are the employees of tomorrow and the future of our country. As students begin to enter the workforce and a global society, they must first be surrounded by and supported by faculty and staff that understand the differences among cultures and their needs."

For more information about the HEED award and a list of the recipients, visit *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine's website at [www.insightintodiversity.com](http://www.insightintodiversity.com).

### **About *INSIGHT Into Diversity***

*INSIGHT Into Diversity* is the oldest and largest diversity magazine and website in higher education today. For nearly 40 years, *INSIGHT Into Diversity* has been connecting employees with institutions and businesses that embrace a workforce that is reflective of the world around us. Our decades of experience in recruiting employees from all underrepresented groups has earned us a reputation in higher education, business and government for finding the most dynamic talent in every field. *INSIGHT Into Diversity* successfully connects employers to the most highly qualified individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, medical condition or history, veteran status, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.

RVCC's main campus is located at 118 Lamington Road in Branchburg, NJ. Serving Somerset and Hunterdon County residents for over 40 years, the College offers more than 90 associate degrees and certificates. RVCC @ Bridgewater, located at 14 Vogt Drive, offers technical, trade, credit and non-credit courses.

The College is committed to offering a quality and affordable education through effective teaching, liaisons with the community's businesses and state-of-the-art technology. For further information, visit [www.raritanval.edu](http://www.raritanval.edu).

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