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AS THE CLASS OF 2008 HEADS OFF TO COLLEGE, THE CLASS OF 2009 IS NOW FORMING

(Mahwah) – With the pressure of college application deadlines bearing down on them, most high school seniors are feeling the stress. Not so for Kevin Basile, a resident of Stratford, NJ and rising senior at Sterling High School, and Keith Dobrin of Tinton Falls, NJ, soon to be a senior at Monmouth County Academy of Allied Health and Sciences, who already know where they are going next year. Before even beginning their last year of high school, Basile and Dobrin mailed in their deposits to Ramapo College of New Jersey, where they were accepted during the Immediate Decision Day held on the Mahwah campus on August 24.

Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Peter Goetz says Basile and Dobrin might be the first students in the nation to send in a deposit for the Class of 2009. “As has been our tradition,” adds Goetz, “I am sending each a sweatshirt to congratulate them on being our first deposits for the fall 2005 semester.”

“I first visited Ramapo College when I was in the eighth grade and touring colleges with my brother,” says Basile, who has earned straight A’s, ranks fourth in his class and scored 1330 on his SATs. “I liked the mountain setting and that Ramapo had a good program in my major.” He plans to major in biology with a physical therapy track, taking advantage of Ramapo College’s 3 + 3 doctorate in physical therapy program with UMDNJ (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey). The August Immediate Decision Day was Basile’s fifth or sixth visit to the college.

Dobrin, who scored 1280 on the SAT, also has earned straight A’s and plans to major in biology; his goal is to become a dentist. “Family friends who are Ramapo alums mentioned the beautiful campus, great education and really nice dorms,” says Dobrin. “I visited in June and found Ramapo was everything I was looking for.” A basketball

player who currently plays for the Monmouth Regional Golden Falcons, Dobrin has already talked with the basketball coach at Ramapo about his plans to continue.

Now in its 11th year, Ramapo's Immediate Decision Day program is designed as an opportunity for students to complete the application process and receive a notice of acceptance in just one day. Though usually scheduled in the fall and winter, three years ago, with demand for the program growing and slots filling up early, Ramapo's Office of Admissions began adding an August Immediate Decision Day.

On the appointed day, students submit their applications, have an admissions interview and receive an acceptance notice, all within a few hours. In addition, students who qualify for a scholarship will be offered one at that time. Visiting high school seniors and their families hear presentations from College administrators, tour the campus including the residence halls, attend a class and have lunch in one of the student dining halls. They also meet individually with an admissions officer.

Students considered for the program must be in the top 25 percent of their graduating class with SAT scores of at least 1100. Goetz adds that, "While these numbers will not guarantee admission, they certainly put students in the range. For Immediate Decision Day, we only invite students who have a reasonable chance of being accepted." Students generally rank in the top 18 percent of their class with a mean SAT score of 1163. Those who do not meet these criteria may still apply to Ramapo through the regular application process in which more time is needed to reach a decision and additional senior year information may be required.

Students who are eligible for a scholarship will be notified at the end of the daylong program. To be considered for one of these awards, a student must be an academic achiever in the top 10 percent of his/her graduating class with combined SAT scores of at least 1250 and a record of school or community activities. These special scholarship awards are for four years, provided the required grade point average is maintained. Scholarships include full or partial tuition and fees, residence hall rooms, or a combination of both.

Additional Immediate Decision Days are scheduled September 14; October 5 and 27; November 5, 10, 12, 18 and 30; and December 6, 10 and 13. For more information or to make a reservation, interested high school seniors and their parents should call the

Ramapo College Office of Admissions, 201.684.7300, or visit the Ramapo Web site at www.ramapo.edu.

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