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Ramapo College Climbs to 27 in *U.S. News* Rankings

(MAHWAH) - In the 2010 edition of "America's Best Colleges," released by *U.S. News & World Report*, Ramapo College advanced in the rankings for the third year in a row in the Universities-Master's North Category.

Of the 26 public colleges and universities in the category, Ramapo College once again ranks number 5. Ranking criteria continued to distinguish Ramapo as an institution dedicated to small class size, a strong first-year retention rate and loyal support from alumni.

"Our consistent ascension on this list aligns with our strategic investment of resources to foster a supportive learning environment for our students, one grounded in the basic tenets of a liberal arts education," said President Peter P. Mercer. "We hope when students read this edition and visit our campus, they will see how Ramapo educates our students to think critically, communicate effectively and become lifelong learners."

Institutions ranked in the Universities-Master's category provide a full range of undergraduate and master's programs. The 572 institutions included in this category were ranked by region-north, south, midwest and west.

U.S. News & World Report uses 7 categories to rank the academic quality of the institutions profiled. They include peer assessment, retention rate, faculty resources, class size, selectivity of the student body, graduation rates and alumni giving rates.

Ramapo College of New Jersey is New Jersey's Public Liberal Arts College. 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 nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.

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