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**Ramapo College Climbs to 25 in *U.S. News* Rankings**

(MAHWAH, NJ) - In the 2011 edition of "America's Best Colleges," released by *U.S. News & World Report*, Ramapo College advanced in the rankings for the fourth year in a row in the Best Regional Universities, North category. Of the 49 public colleges and universities ranked, Ramapo College advanced to number 4.

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 Best Regional Universities 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. Over the past two decades, the *U.S. News* college rankings, which group schools based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, has grown to be one of the most comprehensive research tool for students and parents considering higher education opportunities.

Among the many factors weighed in determining the rankings, the key measures of quality are: peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and, for National Universities and National Liberal Art Colleges, "graduation rate performance" and high school counselor ratings of colleges.

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 offering 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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