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**"The Future of Higher Education" in New Jersey Will Be Topic of a Panel Discussion at Ramapo College's Seventh Annual Legacy Society Dinner**

(MAHWAH, NJ) - The Ramapo College Foundation will hold its Seventh Annual Legacy Society Dinner on Tuesday, December 7 and host a forum on higher education.

Senators Paul Sarlo (D-Essex, Passaic, Bergen) and Kevin O'Toole (R-Essex, Passaic, Bergen), and President Peter P. Mercer will discuss the upcoming release of the Kean Commission on higher education in New Jersey.

In May, Gov. Chris Christie authorized the New Jersey Higher Education Task Force to analyze and identify additional strategies for the state colleges and universities to help contribute to the economic prosperity of the state. The Task Force is headed by the Drew University President and Former Governor, Tom Kean. The report is slated for release Dec. 1.

Senator Sarlo is the Deputy Majority Leader and serves as Chairman of the State Budget & Appropriations Committee. Senator O'Toole currently serves on the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Senate State Government Committee. He also serves as a member of the Ramapo College Board of Governors.

The panel discussion will begin at 5 p.m. in the Trustee's Pavilion.

The Legacy Society recognizes alumni and friends who have created an endowment or who have provided for Ramapo College in their estate plans through wills, life income gifts, retirement plans, life insurance dedications and other planned gifts.

For more information, please contact Anna Farneski at 201-684-7602.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fourth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey 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, as well as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers four graduate programs as well as articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

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.