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Ramapo College Named A 2011-2012 Best-Value Public College by *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*

--Praised for Strong Academic Record and Great Economic Value--

(MAHWAH, NJ) - Ramapo College of New Jersey has been named to *Kiplinger's Personal Finance's* list of 100 best values in public colleges for 2011-12. The ranking cites four-year schools that combine outstanding education with economic value.

Ramapo advanced in ranking this year to 48 for in-state tuition– the seventh consecutive year the College has been included in the list.

The College is one of only three New Jersey public institutions of higher education included in the list, which was released this week. The report features institutions that deliver a high quality education at an affordable price, and Ramapo College was included due to its high four-year graduation rate, low average student debt at graduation, abundant financial aid and low cost.

“We are gratified to see that our consistent efforts to ensure our students have a stellar education with faculty that teach and mentor and hands-on learning that prepares them to succeed personally and professionally – all at a reasonable price – have been recognized, again,” said President Peter P. Mercer.

This year, *Kiplinger's* revamped the rankings to give more weight to academic value, such as the percentage of students who return for sophomore year and the four-year graduation rate. While the criteria have shifted, the overall focus on value remains the same.

“As states cut funding for higher education and tuition continues to climb, the word ‘value’ is more significant than ever,” said Jane Bennett Clark, senior editor at *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*. “This year’s top 100 public schools deliver strong academics at reasonable prices. We applaud these institutions for tightening their belts without compromising quality.”

The full report can be viewed at: www.kiplinger.com/links/college. Visitors to the site will find FAQs about the public colleges ranking and data sortable by criteria such as tuition cost, average debt, student/faculty ration, and admission rate.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

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. The College also offers five 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.