

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Affairs
Press Release
August 26, 2013

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Former Ramapo College Student Wins NJ Distinguished Student Teacher Award

(MAHWAH, NJ) –Kevin McOwen, a post-baccalaureate student who completed Ramapo’s teacher education certification program in 2012, was awarded the prestigious New Jersey Distinguished Student Teacher Award in June at Rider University. He was one of only 15 winners in the state of New Jersey.

Each year, the New Jersey Department of Education publicly recognizes the year’s top graduates of teacher education programs in New Jersey’s colleges and universities through the *New Jersey Distinguished Student Teacher Award* program. Each New Jersey college or university submits packets for the three top student teachers in their program. An independent panel of experts evaluates each student’s submission. This year, for the third time in the last five years, a Ramapo College student was selected as a recipient of this prominent award.

McOwen received his teaching certification in mathematics and is currently employed as a mathematics teacher at Ridgewood High School. In addition, two 2013 Ramapo College graduates, Lauren Santaniello and Ruthann Inserra, were nominated for the award and were honored at the event by receiving certificates.

Anne DeGroot, assistant professor of Teacher Education, has coordinated the process of nominating students and submitting their packets for the past five years and also attended the ceremony. DeGroot noted that this recognition of achievement in student teaching is an outstanding honor for Teacher Education, the School of Social Science and Human Services and Ramapo College.

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Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, 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.