



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Relations
Press Release
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Ramapo College Hosts Special Olympics

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Clubs and organizations of Ramapo College, along with numerous members of the Athletic Department, joined forces with Special Olympics New Jersey on Saturday, April 30 for a special track and field event on the College campus.

More than 30 athletes, including children and adults with intellectual disabilities from across New Jersey, participated in a track and field competition through Special Olympics New Jersey, an organization dedicated to bringing pride into the lives of all involved.

An estimated 70 students and staff volunteers from the College helped organize and run the inaugural event. "To see the smiles and excitement of the athletes, as well as the appreciation and sincerity of our volunteers, it was truly overwhelming," said Miyah Meadows, volunteer coordinator.

In 2011, the Special Olympics joined forces with the NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) for the sole purpose of "enhancing the lives of Division III student-athletes and Special Olympics athletes through a mutual learning experience; provide a platform for recognition of Special Olympics athletes and Division III student-athletes within their communities; and raise awareness of Special Olympics, its programs and services."

Events on this special day provided the opportunity for numerous members of the Ramapo College community to give back and also showcase their own abilities to lead and work as a team, essential for life after college. From the opening ceremony to the closing and awards presentation, it was a day filled with fun, laughter and some exciting competition. "Saturday was an outstanding day for the College, our Roadrunner Athletic Department and the many clubs and organizations that worked together to host our first Special Olympics event on campus," said Ramapo College Director of Athletics Harold Crocker. "A special thanks to

Coach Justina Cassavell and her student-athletes for taking the lead with this project. Thank you to all those who helped make this event a success!"

For more information on Special Olympics New Jersey or the partnership with the NCAA, visit their respective web sites at <http://www.sonj.org/index.html> and <http://www.ncaa.org/about/special-olympics-partnership>

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes viewed as a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 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 eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University 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.