



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Relations
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Ramapo College Selected for Best Practices by CIANJ and COMMERCE Magazine

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Ramapo College of New Jersey was recently recognized by Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey and COMMERCE Magazine at the organization's 3rd Annual Best Practice Conference. Business leaders throughout the State were asked how they use teamwork and collaboration to drive success and what winning strategy encourages staff to pursue a common mission, goal or achievement.

Ramapo College's response included the following reflection from President Peter Mercer:

"To foster interdisciplinary collaboration and service excellence on campus, the College's Team Project Award was established in 2015. The Award is focused on recognizing collaboration across the College's units/departments. Winning teams demonstrate (1) completion of a significant outcome or project in support of the College's Strategic Plan, (2) collaboration, (3) the breaking down of explicit or implicit barriers, (4) creative thinking, and (5) a diverse team composition. Additionally, the award recipients are formally recognized at the Board's annual June meeting. The winning team in 2015 was recognized for implementing a system of early alerts regarding student academic progress. The team was comprised of ten faculty and staff from across the college's three major divisions."

President Mercer's initiative was chosen from a field of 115 entries which was reviewed by a panel of judges comprised of representatives of higher education and business in New Jersey.

More than 150 executives participated in the conference which featured a keynote speech from Jonathan Gilliam, a national security expert and former U.S. Navy SEAL, who often appears as a CNN commentator.

CIANJ represents more than 900 corporate members and works to advance free market principles.

"It makes so much sense to focus on best practice because they are at the core of what we do at Commerce and Industry Association," said Martin Kafafian, managing partner at the Beattie Padovano law firm, who chairs the CIANJ board of directors. "CIANJ is all about helping business grow and thrive. What better way to accomplish that, than to share best practices, the experience – the knowledge and lessons learned by running a business."

Photo caption: Cathleen Davey, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Ramapo College and Executive Director, Ramapo College Foundation, accepts on behalf of President Peter Mercer the award from CIANJ Chairman Martin Kafafian

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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.