



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Office of Communications and Public Relations**  
**Press Release**  
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## **Two Ramapo College Students Win New Jersey Distinguished Clinical Intern Award**

MAHWAH, N.J. – Alexa Baird, a post-baccalaureate student who completed Ramapo’s teacher education certification program in 2016, and Amanda Mol, an elementary education undergraduate student who graduated from Ramapo in 2016, were both recently awarded the prestigious New Jersey Distinguished Clinical Intern Award at Rider University. They were two 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 Clinical Intern Award* program. Each New Jersey college or university submits packets to the Department of Education for the three top student teachers in their programs. An independent panel of experts evaluates each student’s submission. This year, for the fourth time in the last seven years, one or more Ramapo College students received this prominent award.

Ms. Baird did her student teaching at Ramapo High School in Franklin Lakes, N.J., and is currently employed at Middletown High School South in Middletown, N.J., where she is teaching Grade 10 (American Literature) and Grade 12 (English and Expository writing.) Ms. Mol completed her student teaching at Woodmont Elementary School in Montville, N.J. She is currently employed as a fifth grade teacher at Washington Elementary School in West Caldwell, N.J. where she is teaching reading, writing, math and science.

In addition, Melissa Wallace, an elementary education major who graduated in 2016, was also nominated for the award and was honored at the event. All of the nominees and their cooperating teachers were recognized at the ceremony and received certificates.

Dr. Anne DeGroot, Associate Professor of Teacher Education, has coordinated the process of nominating students and submitting their packets for the past seven years, and also attended the ceremony. Dr. DeGroot noted that this recognition of achievement in student teaching highlights the quality of Ramapo College’s preservice teachers, and 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 one of the top 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.