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Award-Winning Actor Ron Cephas Jones Will Deliver Commencement Address for Ramapo College at Prudential Center on May 11

MAHWAH, N.J. – **Ron Cephas Jones**, veteran actor of stage, screen and television, will deliver the commencement address at Ramapo College of New Jersey's 2017 ceremony on Thursday, May 11 beginning at 9 a.m. at Prudential Center in Newark. More than 1,500 students will receive their degrees.

WHAT: Ramapo College of New Jersey 2017 Commencement

WHERE: Prudential Center, Newark, N.J.

WHEN: Thursday, May 11, 9 a.m.

Jones, a Paterson, N.J. native and a Ramapo alumnus from the Class of 1978, most recently starred in critically-acclaimed NBC-TV's drama *This Is Us* as the character William Hill. His other recent television roles include the part of Romero in USA Network's "Mr. Robot," which won the 2016 Golden Globe Award for Best Television Drama Series and the role of Dr. James Covington in the NBC series, "The Blacklist." Additional television credits include: "A Raisin in the Sun," "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," "Law & Order, Lipstick Jungle," "All My Children," "Feds," "NYPD Blue" and "New York Undercover."

His film credits include *He Got Game* (1998), *Sweet and Lowdown* (1999), *Half Nelson* (2006), and *Across The Universe* (2007).

On stage, he played the role of Crooks in the Broadway revival of "Of Mice and Men" in 2014. Among his many notable theater credits are: "Noon Day Sun" the Beckett Theatre in Manhattan; "Richard III" at The Public Theatre; "Othello" at London's Royal Theatre; "The Exonerated" at the Culture Project; and "Romeo and Juliet" at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. In 2007, he won an Obie Award for "Sustained Excellence of Performance" for his role as Wolf in "Two Trains Running" as part of the Signature Theatre's season of August Wilson.

Media who are planning to attend the Commencement ceremony are requested to contact Angela Daidone at adaidon1@ramapo.edu or 201-684-7477.

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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.