



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
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Ramapo College Hosts Networking Reception for Trustees Chair William F. Dator

Attendees include Governor-elect Phil Murphy, community partners

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Ramapo College President Peter P. Mercer hosted on November 19 a networking reception for William F. Dator, recently elected Chair of the College's Board of Trustees.

Guests at the reception, held in the historic Birch Mansion on the College campus, included New Jersey Governor-elect Phil Murphy, members of the College's Board of Trustees and Board of Governors, local legislators, College representatives, community partners and new friends of the College. Ramapo's student-run a capella group, 4GotteN SuitCase, performed at the event.

Governor-elect Murphy kicked off the event by recognizing Ramapo's decade-long history of impressive academic quality and strong leadership by President Mercer and the Board of Trustees.

"We cannot get our economy right without getting higher education right," said Murphy, adding that his transition team will benefit from service by President Mercer on the Urban and Regional Growth Committee. The transition committees are comprised of numerous policy experts and outside leaders in their respective fields. The committees will meet throughout the state over the course of the next two months and will submit reports and recommendations to the Governor-elect and his leadership team prior to the inauguration that will inform the new administration's legislative and regulatory agenda.

Immediate past chair of the Board of Trustees George C. Ruotolo, Jr., shared with guests that Chair Dator's "recent years of dedicated service as vice chair of the Board are sure to serve as a wonderful omen for his leadership as Chair."

President Mercer added that Chair Dator brings with him a rich historical connection and commitment to the College noting that it was Chair Dator who guided the State nearly 50 years ago to site the College in Mahwah.

Mercer said, "While I am very much looking forward to serving on the Governor-elect's transition team for Urban and Regional Growth, I also consider myself and the College-at-large so very fortunate to have the privilege of working alongside a Board of Trustees whose commitment to the College is both palpable and contagious."

Chair Dator thanked attendees for their past, present and future support of Ramapo and highlighted for them some of the College's recent achievements and ongoing projects. "Ramapo College has been named among the 20 Best Colleges in New Jersey. Our College is ranked Number Three, with Princeton University and Stevens Institute of Technology in the top two spots. More specifically, Ramapo ranks Number One among nine of the public colleges in New Jersey," Dator said. He also commended the College's "dedication to the liberal arts as a path forward in enhancing the State's economic and civic health."

Chair Dator concluded his remarks by praising the College's history of investment in its physical plant noting the installation of solar arrays across campus through the use of the State's Public-Private-Partnership legislation as well as the exciting transformation of the George T. Potter Library into a comprehensive Learning Commons.

Photo caption: From left, Ramapo College President Peter P. Mercer, New Jersey Governor-Elect Phil Murphy, Ramapo Board of Trustees Chair William F. Dator, Ramapo Board of Trustees Vice Chair Susan A. Vallario, Ramapo Board of Trustees Secretary Gary L. Montroy.

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college. Ranked among the top colleges in the region by College Choice and recognized by, among others, U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review, Colleges of Distinction and, also designated by Victory Media as a "Military Friendly College," Ramapo College is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding.

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 business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.