

**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

**Office of Marketing and Communications**

**Press Release**

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*Contact: Angela Daidone*

*201-684-7477*

*adaidon1@ramapo.edu*

**Thomas J. Shara Honored at Ramapo College’s 31st Annual Golf Outing**

MAHWAH, N.J. – Thomas J. Shara, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lakeland Bankcorp, Inc. and Lakeland Bank, Oak ridge, N.J., received the Havemeyer Presidential Leadership Award at Ramapo College Foundation’s 31st Annual Golf Outing at the North Jersey Country Club in Wayne, N.J. More than 120 golfers participated in the event which raised in excess of $136,000 that will provide scholarship support for qualified students, fund collaborative research initiatives between students and faculty, and support special programs and projects on campus.

“This year’s outing was a great success thanks to the support from our sponsors, golfers and the hard work of the Ramapo and North Jersey CC staff,” said Frank Conway, of Franklin Lakes, who served as Golf Committee Chairman.  “We could not have asked for better weather and the North Jersey course was in top condition.”

The Havemeyer Presidential Leadership Award is given to an individual who has offered his or her expertise and whose contributions have touched the lives of the community as well as the students, faculty and staff at Ramapo College.

Prior to joining Lakeland Bank in 2008, Mr. Shara served as President and Chief Lending Officer of TD Banknorth’s (now TD Bank) Mid-Atlantic Division, which includes New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Prior to TD Banknorth acquiring Hudson United Bank, he was Executive Vice President and Senior Loan Officer of HUBCO, a $9 billion commercial bank, where he oversaw organic growth and was responsible for integrating more than 30 acquisitions.

Mr. Shara serves on the Board of Governors of the Ramapo College Foundation and the Chilton Medical Center Foundation. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson and Passaic, N.J., and on the Board of Directors of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey and the New Jersey Bankers Association. He earned a Master’s Degree in Business Administration as well as a Bachelor of Science Degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Ramapo College is grateful for our donors, friends, and business partners whose generosity of time and resources thoughtfully advances our mission as New Jersey's designated public liberal arts college,” said Ramapo College President Peter P. Mercer.

The event was sponsored by Century 21 Construction and the Marino family. Additional sponsors for the outing include Lakeland Bank, DialAmerica, Inserra ShopRite Supermarkets, UPS, and PKF O’Connor Davies LLC.

*Photo caption: At left, Thomas J. Shara, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lakeland Bankcorp, Inc. and Lakeland Bank, Oak ridge, N.J., with Ramapo College President Peter P. Mercer*

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