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Ramapo College Ice Hockey Team to Compete at Nationals

MAHWAH, N.J. -- In just in its fourth year of operation, the Ramapo College's Ice Hockey Club is headed to the National Tournament in Dallas, Texas.

"We never thought that in just four years we would accomplish our goal," said Art Chill, Director of ice Hockey Operations for the Roadrunners. "This is truly a monumental feat."

Last weekend, the Roadrunners defeated Massachusetts Maritime Academy, 8-7, in overtime and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 6-2, in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHC) Atlantic Region playoffs. Both victories earned Ramapo a berth in the National Tournament that takes place in Dallas from March 26-30. In the preliminary round, Ramapo opens with the University of South Florida, followed by Sault College of Ontario, Canada, and finishes with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This is the first time the Ramapo squad has been to the ACHA post-season.

Following a 31-year hiatus, Ramapo brought back ice hockey as a club team in September 2015 and joined the Metropolitan Collegiate Hockey Conference. The Roadrunners won the MCHC championship the following year.

"We didn't know what to expect competing as an independent team playing the top tier teams in the Atlantic Region. But we've done pretty well," said Chill, who was the goalie on the original team, which first took the ice in 1972. After graduating, Chill served as coach until the program was discontinued in 1984.

The Roadrunners are 17-5-1-1 thus far for 2018-2019 and are 68-23-1-1 in the last four seasons.

Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college and is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. The College is ranked #1 among New Jersey public institutions by College Choice, and is recognized as a top college by *U.S. News & World Report, Kiplinger's*, Princeton Review and *Money* magazine, among others. Ramapo College is also distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by CollegesofDistinction.com, boasts the best campus housing in New Jersey on Niche.com, and is designated a "Military Friendly College" in Victoria Media's *Guide to Military Friendly Schools*.

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 master's degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.