

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY Office of Media and Public Relations Press Release April 14, 2021

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## Ramapo College Ranked #1 in New Jersey, 24<sup>th</sup> in the Nation on List of Best Disability Friendly Schools

MAHWAH, N.J. – Ramapo College has been recognized by <u>Great Value Colleges</u> on its list of Best Disability Friendly Schools as the top college in New Jersey and was ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in the country.

<u>Ramapo College's Office of Specialized Services (OSS)</u> coordinates the support services and accommodations for approximately 500 students with disability.

"To be ranked as one of the best Disability Friendly Schools in the nation is a great honor. Such a designation represents a recognition of the College's long institutional commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities," said David Nast, Director of Specialized Services at Ramapo. "The work of OSS is so successful because of the College's broad base commitment to supporting students with disabilities. This support can be seen through the actions of administration, staff, faculty and students on a daily basis."

According to Greatvaluecolleges.net, professional organizations that track disability in the United States note that levels of disability employment, earnings and health vary greatly from state to state, and there is still a vast disparity between American Colleges when it comes to educating people with disabilities. Ramapo was distinguished for its "top-notch disability services that allow their students to succeed."

"Serving students with disabilities has been in the College's DNA since its founding in 1969 and is consistently recognized for our campus wide efforts," said Christopher Romano, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. "I am continually proud and impressed by <a href="mailto:the work of our Office of Specialized Services">the work of our Office of Specialized Services</a> and the campus wide advocacy to ease the transition to college life for students with disabilities. This recognition reinforces the promise we make to students; a commitment to individualized attention that not only prepares you for a lifetime of success, but expands your network to include mentors and advisors who will assist you on the path to an undergraduate degree."

Great Value Colleges also noted that Ramapo's historical dedication of treating students with disabilities has led *College Magazine* to name the College as the seventh best college for the physically disabled. *Dealing With Different* also named Ramapo College as the 15<sup>th</sup> best for the physically disabled.

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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, has been named one of the 50 Most Beautiful College Campuses in America by *CondeNast Traveler*, 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, data science, 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, Creative Music Technology, Data Science, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education, as well as a post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice.