Ramapo College's Master of Data Science Program Recognized by *Fortune* among the Best in the Country

MAHWAH, N.J. – Ramapo College of New Jersey's Master of Science in Data Science (MSDS) program has been determined by *Fortune* to be among the top programs in the country. Ramapo's program is also the only New Jersey program to be included in Fortune's first-ever ranking list of 28 graduate-level data science programs nationwide.

"What distinguishes Ramapo's Data Science degree is its emphasis on integrating with other disciplines," said Professor Scott Frees, Director of Ramapo's MSDS Program. "Data scientists need strong technical skills – and they get those here at Ramapo – but data scientists work with people. What makes data scientists so valuable to organizations is their ability to find answers to business and scientific questions and to present their methods and results to a broad audience."

Frees added that what makes Ramapo's data science program unique is that courses are taught entirely by full-time faculty in person, on campus, although students who need to attend remotely may be able to do so. "At Ramapo, our students work across disciplines, through electives, fieldwork, and Capstone courses, to learn how to leverage their technical skills in the real world," he said.

According to Fortune's analysis, data science is one of the fastest growing fields due to the increasing volume of data generated every day, which is "creating a steep demand for workers that can harness, analyze and create value from the data available."

Launched in Fall 2020, Ramapo's two-year, 30-credit MSDS program includes course work in Python, R, Data Visualization, Database Systems, Machine Learning, Statistics and Mathematical Modeling. The program's Capstone experience involves a signature fieldwork component, in which students work closely with faculty and representatives from external companies to work on real-world, actual data projects. This Capstone experience, which can last one or more semesters, gives industry sponsors access to Ramapo students and faculty to help create business value and insights, explore new ideas, and build new products, while also creating a career pipeline for talented students to join these organizations post-graduation.

Students can enroll in one of Ramapo College's 4+1 BS-to-MS programs, which offer a fast-track, interdisciplinary experience through which students can earn an undergraduate degree in four years plus a Master's degree in Data Science, Applied Mathematics, or Computer Science in just one additional year. These programs, offered by Ramapo's School of Theoretical & Applied Science, are supported by the College's recently-launched Center of Data, Mathematical & Computational Sciences. The mission of the Center, which opened in April 2022, is threefold: to promotes a modern image of liberal arts, where students learn the skills necessary to apply technical concepts to real-world problems; to support a tech community at Ramapo College by strengthening interdisciplinary and outside partnerships; and to develop undergraduate and graduate students skilled at applying technical concepts to real-world problems.

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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; is recognized as the state's top college on the list of Best Disability Schools by *Great Value Colleges*; was 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, Applied Mathematics, Business Administration, Contemporary Instructional Design, Computer Science, Creative Music Technology, Data Science, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education, as well as a Doctor of Nursing Practice.