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Contact: Anna Farneski; afarnesk@ramapo.edu / (201) 684.6844

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Ramapo College to Present “Empowering Women as a Prerequisite for Global Peace and Sustainable Development” with Guest Speaker Carla Sunshine Koppell

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Ramapo College will hold Creating a Sustainable World: Voices of Key Practitioners, a series of six presentations during the spring 2012 semester, sponsored by the Masters of Arts in Sustainability Studies program and organized by Professor Michael Edelstein, Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies. The first of these six programs is “Empowering Women as a Prerequisite for Global Peace and Sustainable Development,” to be held on February 9, 2012 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. in SC-219.

The lecture will feature guest speaker Carla Sunshine Koppell who serves as the Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and Senior Advisor to the Administrator at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Koppell works to foster gender equality and women’s empowerment globally.

“A sustainable world requires peace and prosperity,” said Edelstein. “Koppell provides this focus clearly. As a prerequisite for sustained peace and prosperity, gender equality and women’s empowerment is not simply a question of human rights and women’s rights. Rather, it reflects recognition that women bring different skills, perspectives and relationships to the table, changing dynamics and raising new ideas and approaches to addressing the needs of today’s families and communities while asserting the rights of future generations. New perspectives are needed to meet emerging security threats like global climate change, diminished food and water supplies and resource-driven violence and conflict.”

Koppell previously directed The Institute for Inclusive Security and the Washington, DC office of Hunt Alternatives Fund, where she worked to involve women and civil society in peace processes around the world, and most specifically in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan. Earlier positions included heading the Conflict Prevention Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, where she authored “Preventing the Next Wave of Conflict: Understanding Non-Traditional Threats to Global Stability.” She also served as deputy assistant secretary for international affairs of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, as special assistant to the administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and director of the USAID climate change program. Earlier in her career she worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The event is free and open to the public. However, off-campus attendees will require a parking permit at the security booth at the north entrance. To make an advance request for a parking pass or for more information, please contact Professor Edelstein via email at medelste@ramapo.edu.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

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 nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers six graduate programs as well as articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.