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LATINO HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATED AT RAMAPO COLLEGE

(Mahwah) – In celebration of Latino Heritage Month, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sponsoring a variety of cultural, educational and entertaining activities for students, faculty and staff. The month celebrates the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. The theme is Rompiendo Barreras (Breaking Barriers).

The kick-off event is an Opening Luncheon on Tuesday, November 1 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. The guest speaker will be Miguel Perez, an award-winning reporter and columnist for *The Record*. He covers issues and concerns of the Latino population as well as chronicles the evolution of Hispanic heritage. Perez also is a radio and television talk-show host.

Café con Leche: Latino Poetry Slam will be held on Thursday, November 3 from noon to 2 p.m. It features poets Mariposa and Jesus Papoleto Melendez. In a coffee shop style setting, these two renowned, award-winning Nuyorican poets read their work and discuss the impact of poetry on the development of Latino identity. Nuyorican is a blending of the phrases “New York” and “Puerto Rican” and refers to the members or culture of the Puerto Rican diaspora located in or around New York City, or of their descendants (especially those raised or still living in the New York area).

Yo Soy Latina!, a play by Latino Flavored Productions Inc. ,will be performed in the Adler Theater from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, November 4. The play introduces six

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Latinas who accidentally unite through their individual anecdotes, discovering their palpable similarities despite obvious differences. A question and answer session with the actors will follow the play. Latino Flavored Productions Inc. is a multimedia entertainment company that creates successful breakthrough Latino-flavored English language productions.

Latino Heritage Month is presented by Ramapo College's Office of Student Activities and the Latino Heritage Month Planning Committee. Several campus clubs and the College's Women's Center will co-sponsor the events.

For more information on Latino Heritage Month, call Jasmina Bisanovic or Debbie Spina, 201.684.7593.