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**RAMAPO COLLEGE PROFESSOR ANGELA CRISTINI NAMED TO
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE**

(Mahwah) – Dr. Angela Cristini, a professor of biology and the executive director of special programs at Ramapo College of New Jersey, has been invited by the National Academy of Sciences to serve on the Committee on Informal Science Learning. The committee is under the direction of the Board on Science Education at the National Research Council and is also sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

The National Academy of Sciences is an honorific society of distinguished scholars engaged in scientific and engineering research, signed into being by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. The National Academy of Sciences' policy and technical work is conducted by its operating arm, the National Research Council. They enlist committees of the nation's top scientists, engineers, and other experts, all of whom volunteer their time to study specific concerns. The results of their deliberations have inspired some of America's most significant and lasting efforts to improve the health, education and welfare of the population. The Academy's service to government has become so essential that Congress and the White House have issued legislation and executive orders over the years that reaffirm its unique role.

Cristini has been identified as “someone who can make unique contributions to this study.” The committee will review a range of research perspectives that are relevant to informal science learning, deliberate about the evidence base and produce a consensus report. The report will characterize the state of research on learning science in informal environments and provide guidance for future research in this area for institutions throughout the United States such as the Smithsonian and the American Museum of Natural History.

(more)

Cristini oversees Ramapo College's Master of Science in Educational Technology Program and educational programming at the Meadowlands Environment Center. She was nominated for this position by the National Science Foundation based on her experience in science education for children, adults and older adults in formal and informal settings.

Ramapo College is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as number one among public comprehensive colleges in the north. The College also was listed in the February 2006 issue of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* as among the "100 Best Values in Public Colleges." Ramapo College boasts a unique interdisciplinary academic structure and an enrollment of approximately 5,600 students.

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