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**MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT AT RAMAPO COLLEGE**

(Mahwah) - As part of its Earth Week activities, Ramapo College of New Jersey will host a model United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development April 16 beginning at 9 a.m. in preparation for an event of the same name at the United Nations headquarters later in the month. Developing policies to address global warming will be a key focus. Students from Northern New Jersey high schools and Ramapo College clubs will be participating. Interested members of the public are welcome to attend this event in the Trustees Pavilion.

This model U.N. departs from the usual model U.N. format in that it emulates the participation of “major groups” from society, rather than primarily emphasizing government positions. These groups include women, the indigenous, farmers, businesses, unions, local authorities, youth, scientists and non-governmental organizations.

Conference attendees will act as spokespersons for these various groups as they promote positions on equitable access to energy, green industrial development, reduction of air pollution, and ways to promote biofuels and alternative resources to replace global dependence on fossil sources, including oil and coal, in addition to nuclear plants. Participants will advocate programs and approaches that promote poverty reduction and energy access, as well as the mitigation and adaptation to the effects of global climate change and rising sea levels. Youth delegates will carry the final document to the United Nations Conference that begins April 30.

(more)

“We are anxious to see what New Jersey high school students think should be done about the warming crisis,” stated Erin Ashton, president of the Ramapo Sociology Club, and a conference organizer. Students from Ramapo College’s Model U.N. Club and several political science and sociology classes will act as group facilitators and serve on a panel of “government spokespersons.” High school attendees include social studies classes from Ramapo, Indian Hills, Ramsey, Ridgewood, and several other locations.

In the opening panel at 9 a.m. in the Trustees Pavilion, Ramapo professors William Makofske, Wayne Hayes, Emma Rainforth, Michael Edelstein and Hank Frundt will address key conference themes. Breakout sessions for the major groups will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the government reaction panel at noon. After lunch, the conference will begin drafting their final recommendations. The conference ends at 2 p.m. For more information, please call 201.684.7625 or 7538.

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