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**MAHWAH RESIDENT AND RAMAPO COLLEGE PROFESSOR AWARDED
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT**

MAHWAH - Ramapo College announced receipt of a \$400,929 grant in August from the National Science Foundation for a research project, "Phase II Expansion Project: The Next Generation of Practice Exercises for Computer Science I."

The grant's author and principal investigator is Dr. Amruth Kumar, a professor of computer science in the School of Theoretical & Applied Science of Ramapo College and a resident of Mahwah. This award was made by the Course, Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) section of the National Science Foundation. CCLI awards are made to colleges and universities that offer strong programs in areas of science and mathematics and are seeking to enhance them through the development of new curriculum based on research in those fields.

The grant funds the completion of educational materials that Kumar has been developing for introductory programming. These materials are currently being used by at least 18

(more)

Computer Science faculty in institutions around the country including California, Hawaii, Iowa and New York. An important feature of the project is the involvement of students as undergraduate researchers. After becoming acquainted with the material developed by Kumar, the students will design intelligent software that uses artificial intelligence, implement it and help evaluate its effectiveness.

Dr. Scott Frees, an assistant professor of computer science at Ramapo College will advise the project on usability issues. Dr. Peter Brusilovsky, professor of computer science at the University of Pittsburgh, will advise the project on student modeling. The grant money will cover the cost of their services.

At present, Ramapo College is conducting three other projects funded by the NSF, an accomplishment unusual for the College's size of 5,600 students.

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