

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Anna Farneski; [afarnesk@ramapo.edu](mailto:afarnesk@ramapo.edu)

March 9, 2010

**RAMAPO COLLEGE AND MARSHACCESS PRESENT NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON “DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING ACCESSIBLE  
INFORMAL SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS”**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – MarshAccess will present "Designing and Implementing Accessible Informal Science Education Programs" March 11 to 14. This national conference is for professionals who provide informal science education to adults with disabilities and older adults with age related limitations, and will present the model of program accessibility developed through the MarshAccess project.

Currently more than 50 informal science educators have registered to attend the conference, which will be an opportunity for attendees to share ideas and network. Conference activities will focus on serving adults with disabilities and older adults with age related limitations, including: Universal Instructional Design, Assistive Technologies, Teaching Strategies, Hands-on Experiences and No Tech, Low Tech and High Tech approaches. Hotel, meals, and stipends for transportation are funded by the National Science Foundation through the MarshAccess grant.

The MarshAccess program was implemented in 2007, with a mission to create a national model for accessibility and assistive technology that adapts science programs for people with disabilities at the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Meadowlands Environment Center. Over the last three years, the model was developed using data collected through observations, surveys and focus groups during a field testing process with groups of individuals from community organizations partnered with Ramapo College of New Jersey and the Meadowlands Environment Center.

The Meadowlands Environment Center was formed to increase awareness and enjoyment of the Meadowlands' vital ecosystem. The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and Ramapo College of New Jersey entered into a partnership in 2003 to develop a comprehensive environmental education program for schools and the general public. Together, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and the experienced team of educators from Ramapo College encourage the use of the environment as a classroom, increase awareness of the resources of the Meadowlands, and help communities recognize the critical issues that affect the Meadowlands District.

For more information, visit <http://www.rst2.edu/meadowlands/marshaccess/> or call Deborah Rios at 201.460.2813. Members of the media interested in the event may call Anna Farneski at Ramapo College of New Jersey, 201-694-6844.

####