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April 12, 2010

Ramapo College Announces State's First Master of Arts in Sustainability Studies

Two-year program will create leaders in the emerging field of sustainability practice

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Ramapo College of New Jersey is proud to announce a new program, the first Master of Arts in Sustainability Studies degree in the Tristate area. Beginning in Fall 2010, the College will welcome its first class to the program, which will equip students to work in a diverse range of fields, including planning, policy, and design.

Students will learn how to apply sustainability in a variety of institutional, organizational, cultural, commercial, professional, and geographical contexts and position themselves as leaders for sustainability practice.

“It is only fitting that Ramapo College, which has a longstanding commitment to environmental awareness and studies, will offer the first Master of Arts in Sustainability Studies in the State and the surrounding region,” said Ramapo President Peter P. Mercer. “Its graduates will become the leaders of tomorrow in education, science and public policy.”

The program is unique in its interdisciplinary, cohort-based structure. It is taught by a diverse and strong faculty from multiple disciplinary backgrounds from the College's School of Social Science and Human Services, School of Theoretical and Applied Science, and the Anisfield School of Business, and provides the opportunity for students to work with leading experts in the field.

“We live in a special time, the start of the Anthropocene, in which humans have come to dominate almost all aspects of the biogeochemical processes that underwrite our planet,” said Ashwani Vasishth, program director and associate professor of Environmental Studies. “Now is the time for all students of sustainability to take the lead in understanding and applying the principles we have learned and to develop a practice of sustainability that can apply across all levels of organization, from the local to the global.”

The two-year program is based exclusively on evening classes. Prospective students include those from the fields of social science, business, science, engineering and liberal and fine arts. Classes will be held in the College's new Sharp Sustainability Education Center, a demonstration project that provides a “smart” classroom space that supports environmental literacy at the College across disciplines and is a campus hub for advanced study on sustainability issues.

For more information on the program, visit the College's website at:

<http://www.ramapo.edu/graduate>

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