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Contact: Anna Farneski; afarnesk@ramapo.edu

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**RAMAPO COLLEGE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS GRANT FROM
THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

(MAHWAH) – The Biology Research Suite at Ramapo College of New Jersey will get a much needed renovation with the receipt of a \$1.6 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The upgraded Biology Research Suite in the School of Theoretical and Applied Science will enable the college to provide technologically progressive learning opportunities to students. Undergraduates will have the opportunity to conduct experiments involving protein purification, cloning, microbial gene expression and tissue culture. They will be prepared to move seamlessly into research environments in industry or graduate schools because they will have a solid background using the technology and methods in place in these settings.

Among the expected benefits of the NSF grant will be the construction of cell culture rooms that allow for greater organization when handling cells, a bacteria prep room that permits expanding experimentation to protein expression in bacteria and a cold room that will improve the efficiency of conducting molecular biology experiments.

The greatest benefit, says Angela Cristini, Ph.D., executive director, Special Programs and a professor of Biology, who was instrumental in applying for the NSF grant, is bringing together research students working under different primary investigators. “The student-to-student and student-to-faculty interaction will lead to greater collaboration and shared knowledge.”

Funds for the extensive renovation of the biology laboratories were awarded to Ramapo College as part of the Obama administration’s economic stimulus program. Ramapo College is one of only 20 small colleges and universities that received an award from this competitive program.

The renovation is expected to be completed for the start of the fall 2011 semester.

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For media inquiries, contact Anna Farneski, assistant vice president, Marketing and Communications, 201.684.6844.