

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ramapo College to Host Environmental Studies Events

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Ramapo College will host several events sponsored by the Ramapo College Institute of Environmental Studies throughout the fall 2011 semester. All events are free and open to the public.

On Tuesday, October 4, “Why is Environmental Cleanup So Slow?” A Panel Discussion will be held in Friends Hall (SC219) from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. The panel will focus on the Ford Motor Company’s contamination of the Ramapo area as well as polluted regions in New York and the Ringwood, NJ Superfund site.

The panel will include Ramapo College Adjunct Professor of Environmental Writing Jan Barry Crumb, formerly a reporter for the Bergen Record, Director of the Emergency and Remedial Division at the Region 2 Office of the Environmental Protection Agency Walter Mugdan, as well as College Adjunct Professor of Environmental Investigations and Social Ecologist Chuck Stead.

On Monday, October 17, Lawrence Lessig of Harvard Law School will present “Citizens United and the Lost Republic,” co-sponsored by the College and the North Jersey Public Policy Network from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Pavilion Auditorium.

Lessig will discuss how the political system is controlled by wealthy individuals who donate large sums of money to political campaigns.

On Thursday, October 27, “Exploring the Lessons of the Aral Sea Disaster,” will be held as a full day conference based on an exchange program with Uzbekistan. The College’s Institute of Environmental Studies was granted by the Trust for Mutual Understanding for the conference. More details about the conference will be issued.

The Aral Sea was suffered effects of desertification starting in the 1960s due to water removal for crop irrigation. The sea gained global attention as being one of the greatest manmade world disasters.

For more information about the programs sponsored by the Ramapo College Institute of Environmental Studies, please contact Professor of Environmental Psychology Michael Edelstein via email at medelste@ramapo.edu or by phone at 201.684.7745.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers five graduate programs as well as articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.