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**Readings at Ramapo Visiting Writers Series Welcomes Poet Terrance Hayes**

(Mahwah, NJ) - The Readings at Ramapo Visiting Writers Series will feature acclaimed poet Terrance Hayes, recipient of the National Book Award for Poetry, on Tuesday February 14, 2012. Hayes will participate in a Q&A session from 4-5 p.m., followed by a reading of his poetry from 7-8 p.m. Both events will be held in the Trustees Pavilion.

According to the Blue Flower Arts Literary Agency, Hayes is a recipient of numerous honors and awards, such as the Pushcart Prize and fellowships from National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and the Guggenheim Foundation. Hayes presents the reader with engaging and innovative poetic voice.

His style is perhaps best described by poet Cornelius Eady: "First you'll marvel at his skill, his near-perfect pitch, his disarming humor, his brilliant turns of phrase. Then you'll notice the grace, the tenderness, the unblinking truth-telling just beneath his lines, the open and generous way he takes in our world."

Hayes' most recent publication, *Lighthouse* has been awarded the National Book Award for Poetry, being described as "dazzling mixture of wisdom and lyric innovation."

For more information about The Readings at Ramapo Visiting Writers Series or Terrance Hayes' reading, please contact Professor of English James Hoch via email at [jhoch1@ramapo.edu](mailto:jhoch1@ramapo.edu).

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth 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 six 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.