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**Ramapo to Host “Stopping Violence and Abuse: Protecting Our Children, Teens, and Young Adults,” Sponsored by the School of Social Science and Human Services**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Ramapo College will hold the conference “Stopping Violence and Abuse: Protecting Our Children, Teens, and Young Adults” on Monday, March 26, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 3: 30 p.m. in Friends Hall (SC219) in the Robert A. Scott Student Center. The conference is sponsored by the School of Social Science and Human Services.

The conference is an interdisciplinary effort that will bring together professionals who serve children, teens and young adults in nearby communities as clinicians, educators and in other professions in social work. By uniting professionals in the areas of social work, psychology and education, the conference will create a multi-disciplinary perspective on violence and abuse—an important issue affecting young people today.

Featured speakers include Commissioner of New Jersey Department of Children and Families Allison Blake who will provide Morning Remarks and Keynote speaker David Nash, Esq. of the NJPSA Staff Counsel who will deliver a speech concerning the new New Jersey teen dating violence law.

Breakout speakers include Assistant Professor of Social Work Kathryn Krase, Assistant Director of the Center for Student Involvement and Coordinator of the Women’s Center Kat McGee, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education Julie Norflus-Good, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education Anne DeGroot, Associate Professor of Psychology Lysandra Perez-Strumulo, Adjunct Professor of Psychology and former specialist at St. Clare’s child abuse treatment program Jessica Platt and Associate Professor of Psychology Maya Poran, all of the College.

Other speakers include Clinical Director of the Audrey Hepburn House of Hackensack Medical Center Anthony D’Urso and Lyndhurst Public School District members Superintendent Dr. Tracey Marinelli, Supervisor of English & Fine and Performing Arts Lisa Klein and Executive Secretary Pat Norcia. Also to speak are Art Therapist at Shelter Our Sisters Marta Levy, Executive Director at Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey Rush Russell and New Milford High School Guidance Counselor, District SAC Coordinator, and District HIB Coordinator Dorene Zacher.

The conference will also include poster session featuring the work of Ramapo students. Additionally, free breakfast and lunch will be provided for all attendees.

The event is free and open to the public, although seating is limited. To reserve your seat, please visit <http://ww2.ramapo.edu/test/sshs/children.aspx>.

For more information about the conference, please contact Diana Alspach at [dalspach@ramapo.edu](mailto:dalspach@ramapo.edu) or at 201.684.7624.

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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.