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Spring 2012 Term Explores Sustainability with Creating a Sustainable World: Voices of Key Practitioners Presentation Series

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Ramapo College’s Masters of Arts in Sustainability Studies Program is the sponsor of Creating a Sustainable World: Voices of Key Practitioners, a series of six presentations and a day-long conference at the College to be held throughout the spring 2012 semester. Organized by Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies and Professor of Environmental Psychology Michael R. Edelstein, the series focuses on professionals who have strived to and have successfully applied sustainable practices to promote an ecologically sustainable world.

The series opened with a presentation by Carla Sunshine Koppell on “Empowering Women as a Prerequisite for Global Peace and Sustainable Development” on February 9

Programs to come are:

- “Empowering Communities to Protect the Commons,” featuring guest speaker Michael W. Klemens, February 23 at 6 p.m. in the H-Wing Auditorium
- “Transitioning to a Sustainable Food System,” featuring guest speaker Fred Kirschenmann, March 8 at 6 p.m. in Friends Hall (SC219)
- “An Ecology of Mind” Documentary Film about Gregory Bateson directed by his daughter Nora Bateson, March 29 at 6 p.m. in Friends Hall (SC219)
- “Materials Cycling, Green Jobs and the Promise of Local Self Reliance,” featuring guest speaker Neil Seldman, April 5 at 6 p.m. in Friends Hall (SC219)
- “Higher Education Takes on Higher Challenges: Sustainability and Climate Change,” featuring guest speaker Anthony Cortese, April 12 at 6 p.m. in Friends Hall (SC219). Cortese will also chair and keynote a conference “Igniting New Jersey Climate Action,” April 13 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in Friends Hall (SC219)

The series is designed to complement the last semester of the Masters program. During this term, the second year students are completing Masters Projects, to be presented at the end of the term. The Key Practitioners series brings in a diverse group of sustainability practitioners who describe their work in a public presentation and explain their method and approach in a masters seminar. "In this way, our students will receive outstanding guidance from key practitioner role models as they prepare to graduate and enter practice themselves," Edelstein said.

The presentations are free and open to the public. However, off-campus attendees will require a parking permit at the security booth at the north entrance. To make an advance request for a

parking pass or for more information, please contact Professor Edelstein via email at medelste@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.