

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Anna Farneski; afarnesk@ramapo.edu / (201) 684.6844

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**Ramapo River Watershed Conference to be Held April 27 at Ramapo College**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – The 17th annual Ramapo River Watershed Conference will be held Friday, April 27 at Ramapo College of New Jersey from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Trustees Pavilion. The event, presented by the Ramapo River Committee and the Institute for Environmental Studies at Ramapo College, will feature a variety of speakers on environmental topics pertaining to the Ramapo Valley in New York and New Jersey.

This conference will include presentations on watershed events that have occurred since last year's conference including the Warwick Brook Fish Kill and the Tuxedo Mulch Site; the Hudson Estuary Program and the Ramapo River; Blandina Bayard's Indian Trading Post on the Ramapo River (est. 1700); the Asian Tiger Mosquito in Rockland County; Weather Oil Spills and Response; the Recovery of the Ramapo Valley Well Field, the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Project; the People, Places and Cultural Traditions of the Ramapough Mountain Indians; the DuPont Acid Brook Cleanup, and the Impacts of the Proposed International Crossroads Development.

The conferences schedule is as follows:

9:30 a.m. - Coffee and bagel breakfast

10 a.m. - Opening Remarks: Ramapo College President Peter P. Mercer, Rockland County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef, School of Social Sciences and Human Services Dean Sam Rosenberg

10:15 a.m. - What a Year! (A quick review of watershed events since the last conference)

10:30 a.m. - Doc Bayne, Friends of Sterling Forest: The Warwick Brook Fish Kill and the Tuxedo Mulch Site

11 a.m. - Scott Cuppet, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: The Hudson River Estuary Program and the Ramapo River

11:30 a.m. - Nancy L. Gibbs, Sheffield Archaeological Consultants: Considering Blandina Bayard's Indian Trading Post on the Ramapo River Established in 1700

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. - LUNCH

1:15 p.m. - Brian Hunderfund, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Rockland County Health Department: The Asian Tiger Mosquito in Rockland County

1:30 p.m. - John K. O'Mara P.E., New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Weather Oil Spills and Response

2 p.m. - Chuck Stead, Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator / Adjunct Professor, Ramapo College: Recovery of the Ramapo Valley Well Field

2:30 p.m. - Erica VanAuken and Kate Millsaps, N.J Sierra Club; Chief Dwaine Perry, Ramapough Lenape Nation: Tennessee Gas Pipeline Project

3 p.m. - Edward J. Lenik, Sheffield Archaeological Consultants: Ramapough Mountain Indians: People, Places, and Cultural Traditions

3:30 p.m. - E. Durring Merril, Environmental Officer Pompton Lakes: 1) The DuPont Acid Brook Cleanup 2) Flooding Issues

4 p.m. - Ramapo College Environmental Assessment Class Panel: Impacts of the Proposed International Crossroads Development

4:30 p.m. - Reception

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is requested at [geoffwelch@gmail.com](mailto:geoffwelch@gmail.com).

For more information, please contact Professor of Geography Howard Horowitz via email at [hhorowit@ramapo.edu](mailto:hhorowit@ramapo.edu) or by phone at 201.684.7739.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, 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.