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New Certificate in Sustainability Leadership Offered Through Ramapo College

(MAHWAH, NJ) – In response to the need for new leadership skills to advance sustainability practices in business and industry, government and non-profit sectors, Ramapo College offers a new Certificate in Sustainability Leadership grounded in the tenets of *Compression Thinking*.

Designed for the convenience of the working professional, classes run six Saturdays in a four-hour format. The program runs six weeks, beginning September 29 and concluding on November 17.

The program is appropriate for executives, managers and other professionals in business and industry, government and non-profit sectors who are tasked with projects that encompass sustainability/going green, implementing sustainability public policy, addressing environmental health and safety, and developing and implementing organization-wide sustainability programs. Those who successfully complete the certificate program are able to immediately bring the knowledge and skills learned back to their teams to begin implementation of sustainability strategies in their organizations.

A shift in emphasis in organizations toward *preventing* problems and addressing growing public health concerns for the future is spurring demand for an understanding of environmental sustainability. Sustainability is grounded in a conviction that societies need to develop ways to meet their current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to provide for their needs. Applying Compression Thinking in organizations is well aligned with this shift. Compression Thinking focuses on the need to “compress,” or dramatically reduce, the use of natural resources in response to current data that shows natural resources are being overused at a rate that is expected to lead to severe shortages of common virgin materials within 30 years.

“As a leader in New Jersey in sustainability studies, Ramapo College is once again at the forefront by developing a new leadership cadre with a special leadership skill set that is strongly focused on sustainability goals,” said Professor Ashwani Vasisht, program coordinator for the Certificate in Sustainability Leadership and director of the College’s Master’s Program in Sustainability Studies. “We anticipate that a large number of cross-sector organizations in the region who may be working hard to establish and meet sustainability goals will choose to send an appropriate representative through the program.”

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, job projections for the environmental (sustainability) field continue to show faster-than-average employment growth with major corporations, government agencies, private consulting, construction firms, and

universities shifting quickly to sustainable approaches to comply with regulations, to develop methods of fixing existing problems, and to prevent future ecological difficulties.

In addition to the new Certificate in Sustainability Leadership, Ramapo College offers certificate programs in Paralegal Studies (online), Advanced Paralegal Studies (online), Project Management, Business Essentials, Middle School Teacher Certification, Web Development (online), Yoga Studies and Yoga Teacher Certification. Certification in Personal Training is also hosted at the college.

For curriculum information, please contact Professor Ashwani Vasishth, at vasishth@ramapo.edu or (201) 684-7699.

For registration information, please contact the Center for Innovative and Professional Learning at Ramapo College at 201.684.7370 or visit: www.ramapo.edu/cipl.

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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.