

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ramapo College to Hold Environmental Lecture on February 6

(MAHWAH, NJ) - In the wake of Hurricanes Sandy and Irene, the issue of resilience has become a topic of major interest in New Jersey and New York. On Wednesday February 6, Australian Environmental Psychologist Helen Ross will present the talk "Exploring Community Resilience: Case Studies from Down Under." Ross, who is Professor of Rural Development at the University of Queensland, has spent more than 30 years addressing such diverse subjects as growth impacts in Southeast Asia, water management and climate adaptation. But she is best known for her work about and with Australia's aboriginal community.

Her efforts are credited with empowering Aboriginal participation in key environmental decisions. Her studies of Aboriginal and other rural communities serve as the basis for a foundational literature addressing what makes communities socially and physically resilient in the face of undesired environmental change. Ross' lecture is in Student Center 138 at 6 p.m. and is the first in this semester's Expert Practitioner Series offered by Ramapo College's Masters in Sustainability Studies (MASS). Inquiries may be directed to Professor Michael Edelstein at medelste@ramapo.edu or at 201-684-7745. Off campus visitors are reminded that parking permits are required from the security booth at the north campus entrance.

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