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AmpleHarvest.org Founder Gary Oppenheimer to be Guest Speaker at Sustainability Studies Lecture on February 10

MAHWAH, N.J. -- The Ramapo College Masters in Sustainability Studies Program will hold the second lecture in its 2016 series "Lessons of Sustainability: Voices of Key Practitioners" on Wednesday, February 10 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Friends Hall (SC-219). Guest speaker is Gary Oppenheimer will discuss "Ample Harvest: Making Food Waste into Plenty." The event is free and open to the public.

Oppenheimer is the founder of the non-profit organization AmpleHarvest.org, which uses information and technology to channel excess produce and fruit from gardens to food pantries nationwide. Not only is waste avoided and hungry families fed, but communities learn how to work together to take responsibility for the ethical challenges they face.

Oppenheimer has been widely heralded for the success of Ample Harvest, which launched nationwide in 2009. He is a CNN Hero, a 2013 Purpose Prize Fellow, receiver of the Points of Light Tribute, named Huffington Post's "Greatest Person of the Day" and "2011 Game Changer" and winner of the Russell Berrie Foundation's "Making A Difference" award, among other accolades. AmpleHarvest.org works closely with First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Initiative and she has cited the project in her talks. Oppenheimer's frequent lectures include a TED presentation and a Google Tech Talk. Drawn to the mountains of northern New Jersey, he is Master Gardener, Rutgers Environmental Steward, former community garden director and Environmental Commissioner in northern New Jersey.

Those attending the lecture should acquire a parking permit from the guard booth at the north entrance of the campus. For additional information or an advance parking permit, contact Professor Michael R. Edelstein at medelste@ramapo.edu

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Public 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 6,000 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 eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University 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.