February 23, 2011

Dear Provost Barnett,

We enthusiastically share our First Report on the CEC with you. While we did have to extend our time for data collection, analyses, and the writing of this report (as per our email in December 2010), we believe this time was well worth it. Not only do we have extremely solid data with which to work, but we have engaged with the community in exceptionally positive collaborations. The partnerships we have forged thus far are vital for the success of what is to come.

As you will see, we have much solid data and many proposals regarding the CEC. The recommendations and proposals cover a variety of areas, such as task force creations, procedural issues, discussion items, supports and rewards, and so on. Presently all are presented in a "recommendation, rationale, and proposal" format. Importantly, we understand that the timeline is tighter due to the time this first leg has taken, and we are ready to maintain momentum and work with the community on next steps.

While the community reviews this document, we are working on the planning for an open forum (to be held in March) so the community can decide on what procedures and policies Ramapo will adopt. In addition, we are moving forward with plans to develop overarching learning goals to likewise be worked on with the community. Finally, we are examining options to prepare for the May in-service, so that the Community will be ready to enact its chosen plans in Fall 2011.

This process of data collection and community engagement has been invaluable, and we believe that strong collaborative plans and processes will come of it. We believe the Ramapo community will better engage the challenges presented by CEC in its current form as a result of this process and the work the Team is doing, and we believe we will be in a better position to improve CEC as a result. Again, we would like to stress that we are confident that we will have much to move forward with once the Ramapo Community responds to this document and chooses the path it wishes to follow. We look forward to planning and enacting the next stages of this process.

Finally, as Co-Chairs, we would like to note and commend the exceptionally hard work of the entire Team. They have been involved, enthusiastic, and serious about this process from the get-go, and are ready to continue the move forward. Not only have they worked hard on behalf of Ramapo and toward the success of the CEC, but their work is helping to create a new form of collaboration, and community focused atmosphere, among their/our colleagues from various areas of campus. We feel lucky to be working with such an extraordinary group of people, and want to highlight their diligence to you and the Ramapo Community.

Thank you in advance for the attention to this document and for your support of this work for the betterment of our educational community. We look forward to sharing our further progress very soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Maya Poran, Melissa Van Der Wall, & the Team