

## **RAMAPO COLLEGE AND THE NEW JERSEY MEADOWLANDS COMMISSION ESTABLISH A PREMIERE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION CENTER**

Nestled along a tributary of the Hackensack River and providing a panoramic view of the Manhattan skyline, the Meadowlands Environment Center offers a hands-on opportunity to explore the area's wetlands and to enjoy wildlife native to the region. There Ramapo College of New Jersey and the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission have partnered to create a premier environment education center by expanding and enhancing the Meadowlands Environment Center's comprehensive education programs. Based in Lyndhurst, the Center encompasses more than 19,000 acres, bordering 14 municipalities.

Entering the second year of the joint venture, and with an infusion of program initiatives, technology and staff, the sponsoring institutions are achieving their goal of increasing the number of students, teachers and citizens the Center reaches with its environmental messages about the natural resources of the Meadowlands and critical issues that affect the area. Dr. Angela Cristini, a biology professor at Ramapo College and director of its Master of Science in Educational Technology (MSET) Program, heads the effort on behalf of Ramapo College

"One of the most significant accomplishments during the past year is the innovation and the multi-faceted approach to the type of programming available," says



Robert R. Ceberio, executive director of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission.

The arrangement between the two entities involves Ramapo College faculty and students in the Meadowlands through undergraduate courses, student research projects, a post-baccalaureate fellow position that allows a Ramapo College environmental programs graduate to work at the Center for a year, and three semester-long cooperative positions that permit outstanding environmental studies/science students to work as part of the Center's education staff. Undergraduate, graduate and continuing education learning opportunities have been created. The Meadowlands Environment Center has become, in effect, a satellite campus for Ramapo College. Professional development courses are offered to teachers at area schools or at the Center; teachers may also work toward Ramapo College's Master of Science in Educational Technology degree at the Center.