



RAMAPO COLLEGE FOUNDATION

o. (201) 684-7612 | f. (201) 684-7950

e: foundation@ramapo.edu | ramapo.edu/foundation

February 16, 2022

Kerry Kirk Pflugh, President

Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation

PO Box 358 · Brick, NJ 08723

Dear Kerry,

The closure of New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC) in 2020 initiated the Friends of NJSOC becoming the driving force in an effort to save the School. Part of this effort included meetings and discussions with Ramapo College because of our management of environmental education programming at the Meadowlands Environment Center and our relationship with the Weis Ecology Center and the Highlands Nature friends – the 501 (c) 3 membership organization that owns and operates this Center.

We strongly support the proposal of the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation (FONJSOC) to operate the SOC and will partner with them.

This partnership will focus on developing post-secondary, continuing education, professional development, and vocational educational opportunities (i.e., programs, courses, internships) at NJSOC. Specifically, we will work with the SOC and other partners to design and implement courses and related activities concerning climate change, including invasive species identification and removal, where research and teaching interns might put such programs directly into service at NJSOC (to benefit other NJSOC students and programs) and elsewhere.

It is also anticipated that the partnership will pursue grants to support the development of these and other educational programming at NJSOC. Finally, the partnership will promote NJSOC as a facility for Ramapo to provide credit-earning, post-secondary educational opportunities for its students related to environmental sciences, environmental policy, and other matters relating to environmental awareness. Friends may partner with other schools, including other community colleges, also to offer courses that promote NJSOC's mission. The relationship between Ramapo and the FONJSOC will be memorialized in an MOU to be worked out after the RFEI response is approved by NJDEP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Cristini".

Angela Cristini, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology

Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Ramapo College of New Jersey