FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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STUDENTS COME TOGETHER TO PLAN FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES
High School students from across the county share ideas with their peers and learn from local professionals

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

How can we plan for communities that provide for all ages and stages of life? Should we provide more places for recreation, employment, or affordable housing? How can we include features that save water and energy, prevent flooding, and preserve nature? These are just a few of the questions that students in five of Rockland’s high schools have been addressing for the past several weeks as they develop their own plans for the redevelopment of a site they have chosen in their own community.

On Friday, December 16th, over one hundred students will gather to share their visions of a redevelopment plan with peers and professionals from the fields of planning, engineering, farming and environmental science, among others. Case studies include: the Tilcon Quarry in Suffern, Patrick Farm, the Nanuet Mall, the Spring Valley Drive-In, Germonds Road in West Nyack, and the Hollows at Blue Hill in Pearl River.

8:30 a.m.: The day begins in the Ellipse Room of the Tech Center with an introductory session where students will hear from Wolfgang Werner, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Director of Sustainability with Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.

10:00 – 11:45 a.m.: In the first session, students will meet in small groups in several rooms on campus to give poster presentations. They will then take back what they have learned from peer and mentor feedback into the second session where they will revise and improve their plan.

12:45 p.m.: After lunch, the students will present their posters to the entire group of participants in the Ellipse Room.

This unique and valuable program is now in its seventh year. It is a collaboration between Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (Margie Turrin), Keep Rockland Beautiful
(Sonia Cairo and Andrew Stewart), Rockland AmeriCorps (Kathy Galione), SUNY Rockland Community College and Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

Project website: http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/plus

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Community Mentors & Facilitors include:

Suzanne Barclay     Rockland Municipal Planning Federation
Chris Bowser       NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program
Naomi Camilleri   Rockland Farm Alliance
Diana Cutt         Environmental Protection Agency
Raymond Cywinski  United Water
Jack Daly           Ramapo College
James Dean         Town of Orangetown, Highway Department
Jan Degenshein     Degenshein Architects
Ira Emanuel        Emanuel Law Office
Elyse Fuller       Rockland Community College
Chuck Frankel      Rockland Municipal Planning Federation
Linda Hill         Rockland County Farm Bureau
George Hoehmann    Town of Clarkstown
Pat Hubbard        Cornell Cooperative Extension
Helen Kenny Burrows Rockland County Department of Planning
Gerri Levy         Rockland Housing Action Coalition
Brendel Logan      Town of Ramapo, Town Council and Planning Board
Victor Melendez    Clearwater, Director of the Green Cities Initiative
Arlene Miller      Rockland County Department of Planning
Patrick Normoyle   Excelsior Housing Group, LLC
Shannon Purdy      U.S. Department of Transportation
Joe Simoes         Town of Clarkstown Planning Department
Chuck Stead        Cornell Cooperative Extension
Don Wanamaker      Environmental Management Limited
Emily Vail         Hudson River Estuary Program
Geoff Welch        Ramapo River Watershed Keeper
Wolfgang Werner    Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.
Steve White        Spring Valley Concerned Citizens