Cazenovia College adds new environmental program

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Contributing writer

Cazenovia College is turning over a new leaf in environmental education.

The college is putting together a new bachelor's program in environmental studies, offering specializations in two fields - environmental biology, and environmental policy and communication.

The program, created in part by Barbara Hager, assistant professor of environmental studies, was fashioned to offer students an opportunity to pursue education in two fields. Environmental biology will prepare students for careers such as environmental educators or scientists. Environmental policy and communication will prepare students for fields such as nature writing, textbook illustration and graphic design.

"We're quite excited by it," said Hager, who attended the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse. "What we wanted to do was kind of find a niche for ourselves between what ESF has to offer and what I understand SUNY Morrisville has to offer."

The environmental biology courses will closely resemble SUNY ESF's
traditional environmental studies courses, preparing students with research opportunities to help them find a career or get into graduate school, Hager said. The environmental policy and communication courses, however, will be uncharted territory.

Hager will be one of 12 faculty members teaching the new major.

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