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NEWS BRIEF

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Nursing Pinning Ceremony Honors Accelerated Graduates

Santa Fe, NM, Aug. 13, 2009 — Seven newly-degreed nurses will begin careers in New Mexico following a formal pinning ceremony tomorrow at Santa Fe Community College. The students make up the first graduating class of SFCC’s accelerated nursing program, a 15-month associate degree program available only to those already possessing a bachelor’s degree.

The community college’s traditional nursing degree program takes roughly three years to complete. The graduates are Jamie Bobb, John Colangelo, Karen Rees, Samantha Schwartz, Abbi Smith, Shannon Starkey and Bridgette Thomas. All seven graduates started and completed the program together. “These are students who have worked incredibly hard to achieve their success,” said program director Kathleen Matta. “They are adult learners who were successful in their previous professions but decided they wanted to serve people by committing themselves to new careers in nursing.”

Matta notes graduate John Colangelo: “One day, John came in to talk to me and said, ‘I’m 49-years-old and I want to do something meaningful with the rest of my life and I’m going into nursing.’ This is the kind of dedication these graduates are leaving with.”

Matta added that SFCC is the only two-year college in the state to offer an accelerated nursing track.

About Santa Fe Community College

For more than 25 years, Santa Fe Community College has been the gateway to success for individuals and the community by providing affordable, high quality educational programs that serve the social, cultural, technological and economic needs of a diverse community. The college serves more than 14,500 students per year in its credit, noncredit and adult basic education programs. For further information, visit www.sfcnm.edu or call (505) 428-1000.

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