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SFCC Receives \$100,000 from LANS to Grow Green Jobs

Santa Fe, NM, July 16, 2009 —Los Alamos National Security has invested \$100,000 in the new Sustainable Technologies Center at Santa Fe Community College. The funds were presented to SFCC President Sheila Ortego by LANS Executive Staff Director Jerry Ethridge at 9 a.m., July 16, in the President's Office at the SFCC campus, 6401 Richards Ave.

The community college breaks ground on the \$11.4 million STC on Aug. 14 but classes have already begun in areas such as solar, green building, biofuels, facility technologies, and water conservation. The college currently offers degrees and certificates in biofuels, environmental technologies, facilities technologies, green building construction skills, green building systems and solar energy.

SFCC President Sheila Ortego said the \$100,000 investment comes as a welcome boost to the college as interest in renewable energy education rises among students and business developers. "The Sustainable Technologies Center is a program that will serve both students and the state's green industry sector by providing education and training students for the green jobs of the future," said Ortego. "This is only the beginning of a relationship between SFCC and a burgeoning statewide green industry movement."

New Mexico's clean energy economy is growing rapidly. Clean energy jobs in the state have grown 25 times faster than other jobs, according to a recent survey by Pew Charitable Trusts. The state has attracted more than \$148 million in venture capital in the past three years, more than half of which has been invested in clean energy generation.

"Los Alamos National Security is eager to help more New Mexicans obtain training and find careers in advanced technologies professions," said LANS Director Ethridge. "We see SFCC as a leader in providing programs that have a positive impact on New Mexico's economy and its workforce and we are proud to support the growth of its Sustainable Technologies Center." Grant funds will be used by the STC to help cover faculty salaries and fund program development.

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Student Luke Spangenberg, 44, is looking forward to joining the green economy. A former professional cyclist and career personal trainer, Spangenberg is working toward his associate degree in environmental technologies and plans to work as a sustainability consultant. “I think the community college has an incredible opportunity to place itself as a leader in green and sustainability education among students,” said Spangenberg. “I see the STC really expanding the future of the college.”

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.sfccnm.edu or call (505) 428-1000.

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