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SFCC Governing Board Wants Community Input on Higher Learning Center

Santa Fe, NM, Dec. 1, 2009 — The Santa Fe Community College Governing Board is asking for public comment on the college's proposal to build a Higher Learning Center. The public comment session is scheduled for 7 p.m. during the board's regular meeting, this Thursday, Dec. 3, in the Board Room on the SFCC campus.

The Board wants the public's input on whether the college should issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$35 million to make improvements to its campus at 6401 Richards Ave. and to acquire land for construction of a Higher learning Center, where state colleges and universities could partner with SFCC in a collaborative to deliver various bachelor's and master's degrees.

The general obligation bond issue for construction related projects would not affect local property taxes. However, the board also wants the public to weigh in on the possibility of funding from a mill levy tax of \$0.05 to operate the Higher Learning Center. Such a tax would have the effect of increasing property taxes on a \$300,000 home in the Community College District by \$5 per year or \$0.42 per month.

"We hope the voters in the district will come to the meeting and provide feedback on this proposal for higher education services for the future." said SFCC President Sheila Ortego. She added that those who cannot attend the meeting but would like to make comments can address an e-mail to: info@sfcc.com.

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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