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**U.S. Green Building Council Designates
LEED Gold Award for
Santa Fe Community College's Health and Sciences Center**

*A Northern New Mexico advanced training facility
offering state-of-the-art studies for careers in health sciences*

Santa Fe, NM –The U.S. Green Building Council has certified Santa Fe Community College's Health and Sciences Center at the Gold Level under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for New Construction rating system. The building earned 40 documented and approved points.

"SFCC is proud to announce achieving LEED Gold for the Health and Sciences Center," said Dr. Sheila Ortego, President of Santa Fe Community College. "Our students, faculty and staff have an amazing facility with state-of-the-art classrooms and labs to better prepare them for well-paid professional opportunities in health and sciences. The Center furthers our commitment to sustainability and energy conservation."

Located on the northeast corner of the SFCC campus at 6401 Richards Ave, the nearly 48,000 square foot facility is the centerpiece of the college's School of Health and Sciences, which offers programs in nursing, respiratory therapy, dental health, emergency medical training, medical assisting, phlebotomy and sciences, including biology, chemistry, physics, geology and astronomy. The building also houses a dental clinic operated by Santa Fe's La Familia Medical Center that provides dental health services to families and individuals in need, while also serving as a clinical training site for SFCC dental students.

The design carefully considers sustainable design principles in all regards, including energy-efficient mechanical systems, high performance glass, architectural and tree shading, water conservation and water-efficient landscaping. The main lobby features the first LEED Gold building in the Southwest to have a "living wall" bio-filter, a 14-foot high by 20-foot wide vertical hydroponic plant wall that is tied to the HVAC system to cleanse the air of indoor air pollutants by reducing the level of contaminants and provide superior air quality.

The central cooling system maintains temperature and humidity and saves the college energy by reducing the amount of mechanical cooling required in the summer by incorporating evaporative cooling methods. Clerestory windows provide light into the rooms and hallways while a series of cor-ten steel clad canopies and deep overhangs provide shade.

The new Center includes expanded laboratory space, two new nursing labs, two biology labs, one respiratory lab, one dental lab and two labs for the Emergency Medical Service Institute. It also features

simulations labs, complete with human patient simulators and a central control viewing room. The school offers two-year associate degree programs in nursing, respiratory therapy and dental health, certificate programs in medical assisting and dental assisting, phlebotomy as well as paramedic and basic and intermediate EMT training. Some 1,624 students were enrolled in these programs during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Construction of the facility was made possible by approval of a \$25 million local bond issue in 2007, state general appropriations, state tax bonds and state general obligation bonds. Diamond and Schmitt principals Donald Schmitt and Martin Davidson together with Studio Southwest principal Shary Adams lead the design team. Known for their work on cultural, civic and academic buildings, Diamond and Schmitt Architects has achieved an international reputation for innovative and sustainable design solutions. A member of the Canadian and U.S. Green Building Councils Diamond and Schmitt is committed to reducing energy consumption and the ecological impact of architecture. Gerald Martin General Contractor constructed the building.

LEED is an internationally-recognized green building certification system. Developed by the [U.S. Green Building Council \(USGBC\)](#) in March 2000, LEED provides building owners and operators with a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

About Santa Fe Community College: *For more than 28 years, Santa Fe Community College has served as the gateway to success for individuals and our community. The College provides affordable, high-quality educational programs that serve the social, cultural, technological and economic needs of Santa Fe's diverse community. More than 15,000 students are served each year in its credit, noncredit and adult basic education programs. Offering more than 72 degree and certificate programs, SFCC caters to the academic, career and personal-enrichment needs of local residents, businesses, government and public service organizations. More than 274 full-time and 587 part-time employees are employed by the college. For further information, visit www.sfcc.edu or call (505) 428-1000. Follow SFCC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*