



NEWS RELEASE

For More Information

Janet Wise: Executive Director, Marketing and Public Relations (505) 428-1217
janet.wise@sfcc.edu

Todd Eric Lovato: Media and Public Relations (505) 428-1776
todd.lovato@sfcc.edu

SFCC Holds Ribbon-Cutting for Health and Sciences Center

Santa Fe, NM, August 17, 2010 – Health care education in Santa Fe is getting a booster shot. Santa Fe Community College will hold a public ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new \$15.7 million Health and Sciences Center, at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 17.

The public is invited to join the SFCC Governing Board and college President Sheila Ortego to celebrate this milestone in workforce training and education for the Santa Fe area. The ribbon cutting takes place in the main reception lounge in the new facility, located on the northeast corner of the SFCC campus at 6401 Richards Ave.

Dr. Sheila Ortego, president of SFCC, will preside over the celebration. “This new complex represents a huge leap in training for our local workforce,” she said. “Anyone interested in a career in the sciences and healthcare fields now has a first-rate facility in which to pursue their studies. We could not be more excited about the prospects for students, our collaboration with the La Familia Dental Program, and the support of CHRISTUS St. Vincent Hospital, which donated additional funding support and for whom we are naming five classrooms. I hope the community will come to the celebration and see the progress that can be made when bond dollars are invested in higher education.”

The 48,000-square foot facility is the largest capital outlay project undertaken by the college in more than a decade and will house the SFCC’s School of Health and Sciences, which offers programs that include nursing, emergency medical training, respiratory therapy, dental health, biology, phlebotomy and medical assisting. Some 1,772 students were enrolled in these programs during the 2009-2010 academic year.

The building will expand laboratory space for SFCC’s health and sciences programs by offering three new nursing labs, two biology labs, one dental lab and a static lab for Emergency Medical

Service Institute training. The building will also feature simulations labs, complete with human patient simulators and a central control viewing room.

In a unique partnership, the building will also house a new clinic operated by Santa Fe's La Familia Medical Center Dental Clinic, a 20-chair facility that will provide dental health services to families and individuals in need, while also serving as a training site for SFCC dental students. "La Familia Medical Center's Board of Directors and dental staff are proud to be part of such a unique partnership with Santa Fe Community College," said John Cassidy, Chief Executive Office of La Familia Medical Center. "The new clinic will enable La Familia Medical Center to expand its dental services to underserved Santa Fe residents."

The new facility also features the first naming gift in the college's history. Five nursing classrooms are sponsored by CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center, which has donated more than \$400,000 to the college since 2005. CHRISTUS St. Vincent's most recent donation came earlier this year in the form of \$125,000 for SFCC's Nursing Education Department. "It's a gift that gives back," said Robert Glick, Executive Director of the St. Vincent Hospital Foundation. "We give to the community college and in return, we get a trained workforce. The new Health and Sciences Center will play a key role in training qualified healthcare workers for Santa Fe's future."

Construction of the \$15.7 million Health and Sciences Center was made possible by a 2007 \$25 million local bond issue, state general appropriations, state tax bonds and state general obligation bonds.

In February, 2009, SFCC let a \$11.6 million contract to Gerald Martin General Contractor to construct the building.

New public facilities in New Mexico must be designed for the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver standard or higher. Officials at SFCC hope the Health and Sciences Building will achieve the Gold standard when the building is inspected by LEED Green Building Rating System auditors later in the year.

The Health and Sciences Center was designed by Studio Southwest Architects in joint venture with Diamond + Schmitt Architects, and features a number of energy-efficient and aesthetic design highlights.

- ∞ 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 building will employ a biowall, or "living wall," a 20-foot high and 17-foot wide plant wall biofilter that improves indoor air quality and improves energy efficiency. The living wall is a model for blending art and science to deal with indoor air quality in an attractive and sustainable way. The wall reduces levels of contaminants, maintains

temperature and humidity and saves the college energy by reducing the amount of air that needs to be cooled in the summer by more traditional means.

- ∞ The design of the Health Science Center reflects the character and landscape of the campus. Stucco and stone cladding defines the building mass, with strategically placed windows to take advantage of mountain views. Clerestory windows provide light into the rooms and hallways while a series of cor-ten steel clad canopies and deep overhangs provide shade from the desert sun.
- ∞ The building is arranged around two courtyards of differing character which provide outdoor spaces for students to gather, study, eat or take a break between classes. One courtyard supports the nursing program with outdoor teaching and gathering space and plantings associated with traditional healing techniques. The other courtyard provides a more contemplative experience and is planted with groves of quaking aspen. The new courtyards define circulation and movement through the building giving coherence to the plan and reinforcing the courtyard design of the main campus.

About Santa Fe Community College

For more than 27 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 14,500 students are served each year in its credit, noncredit and adult basic education programs.

Offering more than 72 degrees 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.sfcenm.edu or call (505) 428-1000.

###