



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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 Governing Board Approves Tuition Increase

Santa Fe, NM, April 30, 2010 — Santa Fe Community College will raise tuition from \$34 to \$36 per credit hour for in-district students effective with the summer semester. The increase was approved by the college's Governing Board at its regular meeting Thursday night. Students who live out of the district will pay \$47 per credit hour, up from \$45.

Fees were unchanged. An "Early Bird" discount applies for students who register and pay for their classes, or make payment arrangements by May 26 for the summer semester, or by July 28 for the fall semester. Students who register under Early Bird rates receive a \$4-per-credit-hour discount.

The tuition increase was necessary to balance the college's budget in light of reduced state funding. During this year's legislative session, SFCC's funding was cut by about \$950,000 for the current fiscal year. Part of this reduction (\$204,000) is due to the state's "tuition increase assumption," a legislative mandate that penalizes colleges that fail to raise rates to meet a prescribed tuition increase, according to Vice President for Finance and Administration Meridee Walters. This year's increase for community colleges statewide was set at nine percent.

Students on financial aid, including the New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship, can expect their aid programs to adjust upward to cover the new tuition rate. More than half of the students at SFCC receive some form of financial aid. According to college officials, enrollment at SFCC continues to surge as students seek new job skills or re-tool existing careers.

"We are tracking a double-digit increase over registrations this time last year," said Dr. Cheryl Drangmeister, associate vice president for enrollment management. She noted 2010 summer and fall classes are filling to capacity earlier than in past semesters, and students who wait until the last minute to register may not be able to secure the classes they want.

"We know that even with our low rates, many students struggle to pay for college," said SFCC President Sheila Ortego. "There are many financial aid programs available, and we encourage students to apply as soon as possible to take advantage of federal and state programs," she said, adding that because of help from SFCC's many private donors, the college's GROW Santa Fe

Community College Foundation also is able to provide some 143 scholarships for students who may not qualify for other types of assistance.

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

###