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For More Information

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

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

Commencement Ceremonies, May 21

Santa Fe, NM– More than 360 students will receive more than 380 degrees and certificates during Santa Fe Community College’s graduation ceremony, held May 21 at 5 p.m. in the William C. Witter Fitness Education Center on the SFCC campus, 6401 Richards Ave. This is the largest graduation class in the college’s 27-year-history.

At the commencement ceremony, 103 students will receive their Associate in Applied Science degree, 120 will receive certificates, 90 will receive an Associate in Arts degree, seven will receive an Associate in Science degree, and one student will receive an Associate in Applied Arts degree. Of the 316 graduates, nearly 73 percent are female. The average age is 35, with ages ranging from 17 to 71. More than half are minorities, with 40 percent white, 42 percent Hispanic, 3 percent Native American, 1 percent Asian and 2 percent black.

New Mexico Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish will deliver the keynote speech. Laurel Shafter, 36, who is receiving a degree in Human Services, will deliver the student address. A single mother of four, Shafter has combined education and personal experience to discover a passion for helping women and families overcome domestic violence. She plans to continue her education in social work at New Mexico Highlands University with the aim of becoming a counselor.

For those unable to attend in person, the graduation ceremony will air on SFCTV Comcast 16 at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 23.

Earlier in the day at 1 p.m., SFCC’s Department of Nursing Education holds its pinning ceremony for 23 student nurses. The ceremony takes place in the William C. Witter Fitness Education Center. According to the nursing department, all of the graduates are moving into professional nursing careers, many of them at local hospitals and clinics.

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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