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NEWS RELEASE

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**SFCC President Goes to Washington**

**Santa Fe, NM, Sept. 15, 2009** — Santa Fe Community College President Sheila Ortego is in Washington D.C. this week as one of 17 community college leaders calling on Congress to pass strong climate and energy legislation this year and make significant investments in education and training to prepare Americans for a new clean energy economy to keep the nation competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Ortego is representing SFCC as one of 130 national, state and local organizations taking part in the effort to highlight the need for increased funding for work force education to advance the green economy. The effort is organized by the National Wildlife Federation in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges, the primary advocacy organization for the nation's almost 1,200 community colleges.

On Tuesday, the group delivered a letter to Congress, and college presidents and other leaders met with individual Senators and Representatives. "It is time to repower America with a new clean energy plan for our economy, our security, and our environment," said Ortego from Washington. "Santa Fe Community College is prepared to educate and train Santa Feans for the opportunities of this new green economy and to help ensure that New Mexico's workforce remains competitive. It is important that Washington support community colleges in our role in developing the workforce to move our economy forward."

**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](http://www.sfccnm.edu) or call (505) 428-1000.

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