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Educating the Green Workforce
Santa Fe Community College's
Grand Opening Celebration of the
Trades & Advanced Technology Center
Friday, May 6, at 2 P.M.

General Public Invited. Tours, Demonstrations, Solar Vendors, Workshops.

SANTA FE, NM – Santa Fe Community College will launch its most ambitious commitment to sustainability with the Grand Opening Celebration of the Trades & Advanced Technology Center on Friday, May 6, at 2 p.m. The event will take place in front of the new LEED-registered facility on campus at 6401 Richards Avenue in Santa Fe. The public is invited.

"We are very excited about our newest and greenest building to date, and even more excited about our educational programming in sustainable technologies," said Santa Fe Community College President Dr. Sheila Ortego. "With the opening of the Trades & Advanced Technology Center, Santa Fe now has a green, interactive learning environment with courses that relate to in-demand job opportunities and a place for exploration and innovation in clean energy technologies."

Housed in the Trades & Advanced Technology Center, the Sustainable Technologies Center offers classes, certificates and degree programs in fields such as environmental technologies, biofuels, green construction, solar energy, weatherization, electronics, energy auditing and sustainability practices. Residential and commercial construction trade courses include energy, plumbing, HVAC and electrical, among others. All classes incorporate the latest technical knowledge available and are taught by clean energy professionals working in their respective fields.

The state-of-the-art facility integrates traditional classroom learning with modern technology in interactive workshops and learning spaces, blending academic mission with environmental design. Conservation is active, visible and part of the learning experience: light motion sensors, rooftop water collectors, LED lighting, "smart" lighting controls, rainwater catchment for irrigation, electronic sensors on faucets. An "adsorber" – one of only three in the nation – converts solar energy into chilled water for cooling the building. The rooftop is a teaching space for solar and agriculture courses. An outdoor trellis will provide a "living wall." Flexible workshops serve as incubators for innovators and leading scientists to test emerging technologies. *Please see related fact sheet on the features of the building, attached.*

The opening of the new facility is part of the college's strategic initiative to green the campus. With the signing of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment in 2007, Dr. Ortego promised that SFCC would become a more environmentally friendly campus, reduce its carbon footprint and infuse the college's curricula with sustainability practices and concepts. As part of that undertaking, the college developed and is implementing a sustainability action plan and established a Sustainability Committee that meets regularly to address environmental issues.

Dr. Ortego sees the educational structure at the Trades & Advanced Technology Center as a pathway to high-skill/high-wage jobs, particularly in Santa Fe.

“At Santa Fe Community College, we are committed to providing access to quality education to help students prepare for good paying jobs,” she explained. “Workforce development and economic development are integral to our mission. That’s why we work closely with local business and industry to develop training and retooling programs that provide students what they need to participate in New Mexico’s green and technology economies.”

In 2007, Santa Fe voters overwhelmingly approved a \$7.5 million bond for the new Trades & Advanced Technology Center, which included funding for a megawatt solar installation that will provide energy for the 45,000 square foot building, and in 2008 the state general obligation bond provided \$4.2 million for the \$12 million facility. Today, the college’s programs in sustainable design, renewable energy and green building train workers for local jobs as well as for global competition. There is a wide range of courses to prepare new and returning students for the green economy and the center serves as an incubator for innovation and collaboration. Students and practicing professionals from all over the nation and internationally are moving to Santa Fe to take advantage of SFCC’s sustainability, conservation and advanced technologies programs.

The public is invited to attend the Grand Opening Celebration. The official ribbon-cutting will include guest speakers, student demonstrations in sustainable trades such as biofuels and solar, tours of the facility and refreshments. Solar vendors will promote their latest technologies. The New Mexico Solar Energy Association will have electric cars and solar ovens. To complete the festivities, also on Friday, May 6, is a workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: Solar Thermal Energy Systems for Building Professionals. The U.S. Department of Energy is subsidizing the workshop, so that the usual cost of \$275.00 is only \$25.00 per person and includes lunch. The workshop will be held in the Trades & Advanced Technology Center, Room AT 805. To register for Course # STC 301 01, CRN 31645., visit the Continuing Education Office on campus or at www.sfcc.edu. And, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., the college is hosting a free panel discussion, “So You Want to do Solar.” Join the college community on Friday, May 6 at 2 p.m. to open the Trades & Advanced Technology Center.

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](#).*

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