

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

**NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF and SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TO RECEIVE \$10 MILLION from GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND B on NOV. 7**

New Mexicans Can Make a Positive Difference: Higher Education is the Right thing to Do

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Santa Fe, NM, Oct. 25, 2006 — No one debates the importance of education, and on Nov. 7 every voter in Santa Fe will be given the opportunity to make a positive difference for our state's universities and colleges.

Santa Fe Community College is slated to receive \$3 million and the New Mexico School for the Deaf is slated to receive \$7 million under the **General Obligation Bond for Education**, also known as **Bond B**.

The New Mexico State Legislature places the bond issue on the ballot every two years. The 2006 cycle proposes allocating nearly \$118 million for capital improvements to New Mexico Higher Education Institutions and Constitutional Special Schools.

Capital improvements slated for Santa Fe Community College

- SFCC will use Bond B funds to transform the quality of healthcare professional training by building a state-of-the-art Allied Health Building and providing innovative education in a supportive environment across a number of healthcare disciplines that is affordable and accessible for the region, with a focus on career placement.

“Continued funding will allow Santa Fe Community College to expand its health care educational offerings and directly help alleviate the region's nursing shortage,” said Sheila Ortego, president of Santa Fe Community College. “A lack of healthcare professionals affects the entire community. By voting for Bond B, every New Mexican, regardless of what county they live in or what political party they belong to, has the power to make a difference for education and for health care in New Mexico.”

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Capital improvements slated for the New Mexico School for the Deaf

- New Mexico School for the Deaf will use Bond B monies to fund critical electric utility upgrades, which will position the school to renovate Connor, Dillon and Cartwright Halls; relocate the maintenance building and football field; and correct several serious building and safety deficiencies on campus.

“Vote on Education Bond B on Nov. 7 and preserve the New Mexico School for the Deaf and the future of New Mexico’s next generation of deaf/hard-of-hearing children,” said Ronald Stern, superintendent of the New Mexico School for the Deaf. “Your support is indispensable for current and tomorrow’s deaf/hard-of-hearing students from all over New Mexico to become full fledged and contributing citizens.”

What is the cost to taxpayers?

The general obligation bond is funded by property taxes collected by The State of New Mexico. The cost will equal approximately \$.32 per thousand dollars of the taxable value of property—down from \$.34 during the 2002 bond cycle. For example, citizens will pay \$10.17 per year on property with an assessed value of \$100,000.

The 2006 G.O. Bond for Education Campaign Committee is a consortium of representatives from New Mexico institutions of higher education, and is financed by private funding. The Committee’s primary objective is to advocate, through a statewide public education campaign, for the passage of Bond B and continued funding of capital improvements at New Mexico schools. For more information visit www.itsnotpolitical.com.

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