

Inside SFCC

Homegrown Business through SFCC

Santa Fe Community College, like its sister institutions across the country, is unmistakably prominent in work force and economic development. Employers have always looked to SFCC as an institution that responds quickly to the need for trained workers.

Today, while meeting the diverse demand for a trained work force, SFCC also is a key partner with governmental and private organizations seeking management and technical assistance for businesses, custom training or leadership in cultural, environmental and entrepreneurial initiatives.

This edition of INSIDE SFCC looks at a few new programs and partnerships paying big dividends for Santa Feans.

Gallery Management

Matching the names of artists with their works, student Lisa Mora is creating labels to post beside art pieces displayed in the Santa Fe Community College Art Gallery.

Mora, who is enrolled in the college's gallery management program, is preparing for the opening of the faculty art show. She not only works in the college's gallery; she is also a paid employee at a downtown gallery where she started as an intern. The internship, part of her degree program, was established as a partnership between SFCC's gallery management program and local galleries and museums.

Mora is living proof of how teaming with local businesses and institutions to provide practical and professional training can directly address local job shortages.

"There is a huge demand," said Clark Baughan, who oversees the gallery management program at SFCC. "We have dozens of galleries and museums looking for SFCC interns."

Mora, one of several students enrolled in the program, studied art history at the University of New Mexico 25 years ago. Now 43, she has left her job in an adult treatment center to return to what she loves most — art.

Local gallery and museum professionals as well as art writers and critics teach many of the courses, which cover topics such as art criticism, art collection management, gallery practices and art sales.

"Galleries and museums are clamoring for our interns because they hear such good things about our students," said Sherri Silverman, SFCC's gallery management internship coordinator.



Student Lisa Mora adjusts a hanging sculpture in the SFCC Art Gallery where she works to gain practical experience as part of her studies in gallery management.



Center for Sustainability Emerges Out of Partnership

Representatives from the city, the county, SFCC, the Santa Fe Business Incubator and Local Energy reached an agreement to create the Center for Community Sustainability at SFCC. Once established, the center will foster clean self-sustaining water and energy conservation projects and training that will help shape the region's economic and environmental future.

Pictured left to right: Lou Schreiber, Abad Sandoval, Les Matthews, Sheila Ortego, Jack Kolkmeier, Mark Sardella and Robert Griego.



Banking and Mortgage Services

The students who take their seats in Santa Fe Community College's new banking and mortgage classes this year range from bank tellers to loan processors.

Already employed by Santa Fe financial institutions, these students see the new banking and mortgage services program as a chance to gain the skills needed to compete for higher paying jobs.

Their employers are thrilled. Not only will banks and mortgage companies benefit from having trained workers anxious to embrace new technologies and tasks, but the program will reach newcomers to the field and create a larger pool of qualified workers.



"We're hopeful the community college will train students based on industry-wide mortgage and banking standards and provide them with the skills needed to work in the community and remain in northern New Mexico."

— David M. Miller, managing director and senior vice president of corporate communications and strategic planning at Thornburg Companies.

In fact it was leaders in Santa Fe's financial sector who galvanized the idea for the program and turned to SFCC to train the work force. The college's Business and Technologies division embraced the concept.

"Part of our mission is to forge working partnerships with businesses at the local level to produce a trained work force that meets their needs," said Al Reed, dean of Business and Technologies. "It's what makes our programs work."

The SFCC banking and mortgage services program was formed as an alliance between the college and Century Bank, First National Bank, Los Alamos National Bank and Thornburg Companies.

Film Crew Training

The unheralded secret of Santa Fe Community College's emerging film crew training program is its multiple affiliations and partnerships.

Support for the program has come from the local film industry union, the New Mexico Film Office, local film producers and production studios, the County of Santa Fe and Gov. Bill Richardson. The program also is offered through Eastern New Mexico University in Roswell and TVI in Albuquerque.

More than 40 students, who are enrolled in the program at the three colleges, have worked on actual film and TV projects, and several students have been accepted into the local film union.

But the program is not just providing hands-on experiences for students; it is helping New Mexico position itself as a film-making mecca.

"We delivered trained workers to the industry before the first round of courses were even complete," said Barton Bond, who coordinates the program.

SFCC offers multiple levels of film crew training. The courses, taught by working film union professionals, culminate with students working on actual crews.

In just two years, enrollment in film and related media arts courses at SFCC has risen 35 percent, further proof of a burgeoning industry that holds promise for new jobs.

Film crew training at SFCC has afforded student Tsuya Chinn the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the film industry and make connections necessary to find work on a movie set. Chinn was hired this fall as a staff assistant for wardrobe in the production of "Astronaut Farmer," a drama featuring Billy Bob Thornton and Virginia Madsen.

