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SFPS Board Member to Address SFCC Graduates

Santa Fe, NM, May 14, 2007 — Angelica K. Ruiz, a member of the Santa Fe Public School Board of Education and a graduate of Santa Fe Community College, will deliver the keynote address during the college's graduation ceremony on May 18 to the largest graduating class in the college's 24-year history.

Ruiz will talk to graduates about the power of words and how it sometimes is hard to understand the importance of an encouraging word. She will also talk about happiness and growth in the face of challenge.

In addition to her role as an elected official, Ruiz works as human resources director at Bishop's Lodge, serves as president of the parent and teacher organization at Ortiz Middle School and coaches boys' basketball at Cesar Chavez Community School. She received an associate's degree at SFCC in 1998 and earned a bachelor's degree from University of New Mexico and a master's degree from University of Phoenix.

SFCC President Sheila Ortego will present 265 degrees and certificates to the 249 graduates. The ceremony is open to the public and begins at 7 p.m. in the William C. Witter Fitness Education Center at Santa Fe Community College, 6401 Richards Ave., Santa Fe.

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Of the graduates, 185 are female, and the average age is 33.46 years old. More than half of the students are minorities. Nearly 100 students are white, 122 are Hispanic, three are Native American and eight are Asian. And 75 of the students graduated from either Santa Fe High School or Capital High School while 24 of the graduates received GED diplomas.

Delivering a tribute to her fellow classmates at SFCC will be graduate Tammy Gallegos, president of the SFCC Student Government Association.

The ceremony will cap off the college's graduation season. Earlier in the day, the annual nurses' pinning ceremony will recognize 13 graduates of the college's associate-degree nursing program. And next month, the Adult Basic Education department will honor 32 students who successfully completed their GED requirements between December 2006 and April 2007. The GED ceremony begins at 5 p.m. on June 1 in the Jemez Rooms at Santa Fe Community College.

About Santa Fe Community College

Santa Fe Community College serves more than 14,500 students per year in its credit, noncredit and adult basic education programs. The 24-year-old college offers academic, career and personal-enrichment programs and services to meet the needs of business, government and the region's diverse population. The college contributes to the area's economic, technological and cultural development by offering programs ranging from art to business management and directly addresses regional job shortages through its nursing, teacher education and culinary arts programs. To learn more, visit www.sfccnm.edu or call (505) 428-1000.

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