

Inside SFCC



Students enrolled in SFCC's course "Summer Solar Intensive" help install photovoltaic solar panels at the college's ECDC in July 2007. The panels generate electricity that the college sells to PNM.

Bond Funds Set to Expand Allied Health

Groundbreaking on the new SFCC Health Sciences Center could occur as early as this spring as a result of the overwhelmingly positive vote on the college's \$25 million bond issue.

The Health Sciences Center will house laboratories and classrooms as well as a dental clinic in partnership with La Familia Medical/Dental Center. The college will also be able to improve its network and network security, update telephone systems, purchase computers and provide infrastructure required to sustain the administrative software system.

A large share of the bond funds will be used to jump-start an occupational trades and advanced technology center. This project is a long-held vision of President Sheila Ortego and others who see a growing need for SFCC to take the lead in providing workforce training in the region.

The college's strategic plan, developed with community input, made clear the need for local education for high paying, skilled careers to keep

Focus Turns To Renewable Energy

Two of Santa Fe's most important and revered geographical features – trees and sun – are beginning to provide the means for Santa Fe Community College to depend less upon its public utility company and more upon local sources of renewable energy.

As part of its continuing commitment to environmental sustainability and leadership, SFCC will expand its use of biomass heating with a new boiler to heat the main campus building and the use of photovoltaic solar panels installed at the Early Childhood Development Center to generate electric power.

Much like the traditional gas furnace that is currently used to provide heat throughout the college's main campus building, the biomass-heating unit will be used for the bulk of the campus's

heating needs. The gas system will remain in place to supplement the boiler on the coldest days of the year.

The use of biomass heating systems, which process organic matter into energy for heat, has become increasingly popular throughout the United States within the past couple of decades. The environmental benefits are many, including reduced harmful greenhouse emissions as well as reducing the dependence on fossil fuels through the use of a local renewable energy source.

The new boiler's biomass fuel – wood chips created from forest thinning projects throughout the national and private forests between Santa Fe and Las Vegas – is free, however, the

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Energy (continued)

college will pay for the labor to have it extracted from the forest, chipped and delivered. The wood chips will be transported to the college via trucks that will feed the chips into an automated mechanism contained within the boiler.

The biomass-heating unit was delivered to the college earlier this fall and is expected to be installed and producing heat for the campus by February 2008. The new system will supply approximately 80 to 90 percent of the college's heat and decrease the college's dependence on gas boilers to a savings of approximately \$100,000 per year.

The new boiler is the college's second biomass heating unit. The first was installed at the college's ECDC in December 2005. This manual boiler uses wood fuel from the campus grounds, including trees that were cut due to bark beetle infestation. The boiler also serves as an educational tool. A noncredit course titled "Biomass Energy," offered through the Center for Community Sustainability, introduces students to biomass energy through hands-on instruction. As part of the four-week course, students learn about wood-fired heating systems, including harvesting and handling woody fuels, combusting them efficiently and cleanly, and measuring thermal and environmental performance.

Generating Energy

The campus has also made the leap into the use of solar power as renewable energy through the installation of photovoltaic solar panels. In July 2007, a course titled "Summer



The college's plant operations receives delivery of the biomass-heating unit at the college's loading dock. The new heating system will decrease the college's dependence on its gas boilers.

Courses offered through SFCC's Center for Community Sustainability

- Great Southwest Design in an Energy-Efficient Home
- Alternative Building Methods
- Water Harvesting and Recycling
- Introduction to Renewable Electrical Energy
- Introduction to Solar Heating
- The Atmosphere and Air Quality

Solar Intensive" trained approximately 16 students on solar power, as part of the college's Center for Community Sustainability. The students, which included homeowners, architects and builders, learned about the technical aspects of solar energy and then spent three days installing the solar panels at the college's ECDC.

In Oct. 2007, after required inspections, the solar unit was connected to the PNM grid and generating electricity that the college sells back to PNM and receives as a credit against its monthly energy bill. The amount of energy generated monthly through the solar panels would provide enough electricity for an average household for a month.

Bond Funds (continued)

more local high school graduates in Santa Fe, and allow young families to make a good living.

Some of the programs that could be housed in the new building include SFCC's fledgling programs in plumbing and heating along with

other training programs in the green construction trades, water and wastewater technology, drafting, pre-engineering, electronics, woodworking and film industry trades. Dr. Ortego has named a campus committee to explore possibilities and draft an initial plan for the facility.

Another key project to be funded with

bond money is a remodel of the food service and culinary arts area.

The college has not expanded or made major upgrades in this area since its founding 25 years ago, so the improvements are sure to be welcomed by students, employees and the many community members who attend functions at SFCC.

SFCC's New Accreditation Process Strives For Excellence

Santa Fe Community College's new accreditation system will provide a dynamic evaluation process that focuses the college on constantly improving its practices and the services it provides to students and other college stakeholders.

SFCC pursued the new accreditation process, called Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP), to make excellence a campus priority. The college applied for acceptance through its accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, in June 2007.

"Our acceptance into AQIP allows the college to focus on continuous improvement," SFCC President Sheila Ortego said. "The old accreditation model evaluates the college every seven to 10 years. With AQIP, we will be reporting every year, which will make us much more conscious of our performance on an ongoing basis."

AQIP is based on quality improvement principles and processes. It involves a structured set of goal-setting, networking and accountability activities. The yearly evaluation cycle drives

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— SFCC President Sheila Ortego



improvement by requiring colleges to complete three to four "action projects" during the course of the year.

"This effort will involve every member of the faculty and staff and means that we will be working even harder to serve our students and the community," said Dr. Jackie Virgint, the college's vice president for planning and institutional effectiveness.

The AQIP accreditation review includes educational activities as well

as governance and administration, financial stability, admissions and student personnel services, student academic achievement, organizational effectiveness and relationships with outside constituencies.

Accreditation is sought voluntarily by institutions and is awarded by non-governmental bodies. The higher learning accreditation process is designed to guarantee quality assurance and institutional and program improvement.



College Night Opens Doors to Higher Education

Area students and their families crowded into the William C. Witter Fitness Education Center Gymnasium on Tuesday, Oct. 16. More than 90 colleges and universities from around the country were in attendance to promote higher education and share information about getting into college.

INSIDE BRIEFS

Abstract Subjects Focus of Student Exhibit

Santa Fe Community College students Bart Ellison and Mason Kovac will show recent artwork in an exhibition titled *Stray Shots*, which runs through Dec. 7 in the college's Design and Media Arts Gallery.

Stray Shots represents the way both Ellison and Kovac explore the world. They both seek to express the feeling and vision they had at the time of capture. Both artists shoot stray subjects and personalize them in abstract forms: Kovac's are painterly and Ellison distills his images by simplifying them to evoke a specific mood.

The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. SFCC is located at 6401 Richards Ave., approximately 2.5 miles south of Rodeo Road. For more information, contact the gallery coordinator at (505) 428-1517.

SFCC Students In Top Lottery Campaign

Santa Fe Community College students were featured in a television ad campaign for the New Mexico Lottery that won first place in a national competition for lottery advertising.

The campaign, titled "Do Something Different," was designed to raise awareness of the educational opportunities available through the state's community colleges and features students emphatically stating their career ambitions such as welding and culinary arts.

The North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries, a nonprofit association representing 51 lottery organizations, sponsored the annual advertising and business communications competition. The New Mexico Lottery received first place in the coordinated campaign category.

Writing Instructor Publishes Book of Essays

Creative writing instructor Miriam Sagan has published a new book of essays titled "Gossip." The collection features her writings on topics such as time, romantic love, death and aging that were written during a 10-year period. Many of the essays were first featured in various local publications including the Santa Fe Reporter, the Albuquerque Journal's Sage magazine and Crosswinds.

The book is published by Tres Chicas Books, a collaborative press founded by Miriam and two other New Mexico poets. Miriam has taught at the college for more than 10 years and serves as the adviser for the college's student magazine, The Santa Fe Literary Review. She is the author of more than 20 books.



A collaboration between the college and UNM allows fine arts students to complete a bachelor of fine arts in studio arts at SFCC.

SFCC, UNM Team Up For BFA

This fall, students no longer need to leave one of America's largest art centers to earn a bachelor of fine arts degree. The University of New Mexico and Santa Fe Community College have launched a bachelor of fine arts in studio arts at the Santa Fe campus.

The joint program allows students to fulfill all core and prerequisite requirements for UNM's bachelor of fine arts degree through completion of SFCC's associate of arts in studio arts degree. The agreement leads to a seamless transfer, which will expedite the student's completion of the degree. Students will also be able to complete the degree in its entirety in Santa Fe.

Courses in painting and drawing are now under way at the SFCC campus with other courses being offered in the Spring 2008 semester. UNM's College of Fine Arts and Santa Fe Bachelor & Graduate Center will oversee the upper-level classes and grant the final degree. UNM will provide academic advisement, admission and registration services through the Santa Fe Center located at SFCC.

"The new BFA program is the first in what we hope will be a growing number of collaborative degree programs," SFCC President Sheila Ortego said. "We want to expand options for local students to stay in Santa Fe and complete their higher education."

SFCC PROFILES



Licensed elementary classroom and secondary language arts teachers will receive training at SFCC to teach English to non-native speakers.

SFCC to Train ESL Teachers

Santa Fe Community College and Santa Fe Public Schools have formed a partnership to increase the number of English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers in Santa Fe's public schools to serve the growing number of English Language Learners (ELL) in the district.

A five-year, \$879,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education will fund the creation of an ESL endorsement program at SFCC and assist licensed elementary classroom and secondary language arts teachers in SFPS to become endorsed.

According to Dr. Isabel Sandoval, the bilingual director at SFPS, approximately one-third of all SFPS students have been designated as English Language Learners (ELL) and 42 percent of those students are not currently being served by endorsed ESL teachers.

The program, called Teachers Equipped for Student Success (TESSS), will focus on training teachers to teach English to non-native speakers. The courses will be delivered through a combination of online and on-campus instruction.

At the end of the grant's five-year period, the program's objectives are to graduate 40 teachers through the program and increase the number of students currently served by 20 percent. Classes are scheduled to begin in Summer 2008.

In her almost 16 years at the college, **Anne Probst** has held a variety of positions, including a key post in Plant Operations and Maintenance. Now she is bringing her outgoing, positive style to a new job in the Office of the Vice President of Finance and Administration.



As part of her new position, Probst will focus on expanding the campus's emergency response procedures. Following the tragic events at Virginia Tech, Governor Bill Richardson asked colleges and universities in the state to develop response plans that would help keep campuses safe. Probst is working with state emergency management coordinator Martin Vigil to facilitate training for SFCC employees, so that when a disaster or other situation strikes, the college is prepared.

Asked why her new job appeals to her, Anne says she is very passionate about making sure the college community is well prepared. "When you've worked here for this long you become a family. I care for a lot of people on this campus."

Tom Romero has been hired as the associate vice president for finance and administration. He comes to SFCC after serving as Deputy Secretary for the NM General Services Department since April 2006. He joined the Richardson Administration as Deputy Secretary at the Human Services Department in 2003.



He has extensive experience in financial management and systems, risk management, property control, information technology, human resources, budgeting and auditing. He has a BBA degree in accounting and is a C.P.A.

Tom is well known in the community as the president of the board of El Museo Cultural, a community center that promotes Hispanic art, culture and history. El Museo is located in the Railyard District and has been home for the past eight years to the popular Contemporary Hispanic Market.

Rene Adams has been hired as the director of the college's respiratory therapy program. She has been working in the field of respiratory therapy since 1985. She has been an instructor at Central New Mexico Community College and started the Respiratory Care Program at Doña Ana Community College in Las Cruces in 1992. Rene earned her master's degree in education from New Mexico State University in 1995. She is also a massage therapist and a certified yoga instructor.



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SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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Santa Fe, NM 87508

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S F C C C A L E N D A R

Registration for Spring 2008	Nov. 12-Dec. 14 and Jan. 2-19
Final examinations	Dec. 1-7
Fall 2007 semester ends	Dec. 7
Winter break (college closed)	Dec. 15-Jan. 1
Payment deadline for Early Bird Rate	Jan. 4
Faculty Development Day	Jan. 11
Classes begin	Jan. 19
Holiday (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – college closed)	Jan. 21
Late registration	Jan. 20-23
Deadline for schedule changes (drop/add)	Jan. 22-25

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SFCC: *Helping Students Succeed. Serving our Community.*