

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

For More Information

Mary Wooten: Coordinator, Adult Basic Education

(505) 428-1329

mwooten@sfccnm.edu

Todd Lovato: Director, Media Relations

(505) 428-1776

todd.lovato@sfccnm.edu

Jim Spacht: Instructor, GED

(505) 428-1356

jspacht@sfccnm.edu

SFCC to Recognize GED Students

Santa Fe, NM, April 22, 2009 — Santa Fe Community College will hold a ceremony to honor the 68 students who successfully completed the college's GED preparation classes and passed GED tests from December 2008 to April 2009. The ceremony takes place 5 to 6 p.m., Friday, April 24 in the Jemez Rooms at SFCC, 6401 Richards Ave.

The student speaker is Valerie Wright, 28, a single parent who finished her GED requirements earlier this year and is now a full-time SFCC student working toward a degree in business administration. Another student of note is Miguel Garcia, 33, who, more than a decade ago in a case mistaken identity, was brutally attacked and subsequently diagnosed with brain damage. For the past three years, Garcia has worked closely with SFCC instructors to complete his GED. In lieu of a speech, Garcia will participate in a question and answer interview with GED instructor Jim Spacht.

"These GED graduations have more emotion than most other graduation ceremonies I see," said Spacht. "Many of these students have come from difficult backgrounds and the emotion runs high. It's an inspiration for everyone involved."

The college's Adult Basic Education program holds two ceremonies a year recognizing the students who have completed the GED requirements and earned a New Mexico high school diploma. GED preparation courses are offered at the college every six weeks and are free. The next registration is June 4, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and June 5, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Classes begin on June 8. Registration also takes place July 9 and 10 for classes beginning on July 13. Students must be at least 16 to enroll with a signed underage permission form from their school's superintendent if they are 16 or 17 years old. Classes are offered mornings, afternoon, evenings and Saturdays.

For more information, please contact Mary Wooten, the college's GED coordinator, at (505) 428-1329.

About Santa Fe Community College

Now celebrating its 25th year, Santa Fe Community College is the gateway to success for individuals and the community by providing affordable, high quality educational programs that serve the social, cultural, technological and economic needs of a diverse community. The college serves more than 14,500 students per year in its credit, noncredit and adult basic education programs. For further information, visit www.sfccnm.edu or call (505) 428-1000.

###