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**For More Information**

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**SFCC and Local Home Organizations Team Up to Train At-Risk Youth**

**Santa Fe, NM, April 8, 2009** — On April 14 at 11 a.m., shovels break ground on a patch of land located on 54 Willow Back Road in Oshara Village. In a mere 16 weeks, this empty lot will have risen into an attractive 1,300 square foot, three bedroom Santa Fe-style family abode for local resident Anne Icenhower and her three children. This house, however, will be no ordinary home.

It's the first project to result from a partnership between Santa Fe Community College, Youthworks!, Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association and Santa Fe Habitat for Humanity. The groups are working together in a program titled "Training Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Jobs," in which at-risk teens selected by Youthworks! are given the opportunity to learn green construction skills while building a Habitat for Humanity Santa Fe home in Oshara Village. As a Habitat for Humanity applicant, Icenhower was selected in July 2008 to be the future owner of the home.

The April 14 groundbreaking has the makings of a large community event, with attendance expected from volunteers, staff and students from each participating organization, along with scheduled appearances by government representatives like Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) and his father, House Speaker Ben Lujan. Icenhower will also be in attendance.

In December 2008, the SFCC was awarded a \$110,596 grant from the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions and the U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) program in response to a proposal submitted by SFCC in partnership with YouthWorks!, Santa Fe Area Homebuilders Association and Habitat for Humanity. The grant will pay for wages, on-the-job education and classroom learning. As part of the 16-week program, students earn nine credits toward the college's certificate in Green Construction Skills. Successful students will be awarded scholarships to continue the 21-credit hour program at SFCC in the fall.

The project is part of a broader SFCC initiative to bring workforce development in the trades into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In addition to learning new techniques for green building at each step of the building process, students will also be enrolled in a college success class and introduced to applied computer skills in building information drawing and modeling.

**About Santa Fe Community College**

Now celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.sfccnm.edu) or call (505) 428-1000.

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