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**SFCC Volunteers Help with Free Income Tax Preparation**

**Santa Fe, NM, Feb. 23, 2009** — Between now and April 15, an eager staff of volunteers at Santa Fe Community College await taxpayers, eager to file year-end tax returns. Equipped with desktop computers, mugs of coffee and tax return preparation know-how, these more than 70 volunteers are ready to help thousands of seniors, single parents, students and low-income families recoup millions in state and federal income taxes and tax credits.

Many of these volunteers are current and former SFCC students and AARP members who have completed a two-credit accounting class or refresher course that trains students in tax-return preparation, electronic filing procedures and software use.

For the second year straight, the free service takes place inside the William C. Witter Fitness Education Center, on the mezzanine overlooking the college campus at 6401 Richards Ave. The service is available at the following times:

- Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays – 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Volunteers are trained to prepare most returns of low to moderate income taxpayers with the exception of those containing certain complications. Returns considered complicated include those with business depreciation and payroll obligations or that contain extensive stocks and bonds, real estate or rental property. For more information, taxpayers can call 428-1780 before dropping in.

There is an important checklist of information to bring into the site before a volunteer can help. Call the number above or visit [www.sfccnm.edu](http://www.sfccnm.edu) (and click on “Need Tax Help?”) for a list.

Each year, New Mexican individuals and families miss out on millions in unclaimed tax credits by failing to claim them or simply being unaware that the credits exist. Among other services, SFCC’s free tax assistance helps thousands take full advantage of these credits, which include the Earned Income Tax Credit and the New Mexico Working Families Tax Credit.

This tax assistance program and its more than 70 volunteers served 5,225 clients last year, resulting in more than \$4 million in refunds and more than \$2.3 million in recouped tax credits, which are only recoverable when taxes are filed properly.

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## *P.2 Tax Help*

Services are also available through AARP Tax-Aide New Mexico at the Santa Fe Boys & Girls Club (730 Alto Street) – available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to noon on Fridays, and by appointment on Saturdays.

This year's tax assistance program is sponsored by SFCC and TaxHelp New Mexico, an organization designed to help elderly and low-income individuals prepare their tax returns through partnerships with post-secondary educational institutions and other nonprofit agencies in the state. Additional sponsors are AARP and the City of Santa Fe.

### **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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