



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

**For More Information**

Al Reed: Dean, School of Business and Applied Technologies (505) 428-1314  
Lou Schreiber: Director, Workforce Training and Development (505) 428-1617  
Todd Eric Lovato: Director, Media Relations (505) 428-1776

**WIRED Grants Bring Funding, Growth to SFCC**

**Santa Fe, NM, March 31, 2009** — Santa Fe Community College has been awarded \$528,567 in three grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. The community college will use the funds – which were awarded through New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions and the U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) program – to develop and expand programs in green jobs and to provide student scholarships.

The grant funds will provide support and growth to SFCC, which has watched its for-credit enrollment grow by more than 13 percent over last year, while budgets have tightened.

“These grants will help us advance the college’s mission to provide education and training for good jobs right here in New Mexico,” said SFCC President Sheila Ortego. “We want to thank the Department of Labor and our area government partners for joining in the effort to grow employment, especially in the area of the new green economy.”

The grant funds will be administered and managed by the School of Business and Applied Technologies and must be spent for their declared purposes by May 2010. Grant monies will be allocated as follows:

- **\$149,887 for student scholarships:** Students enrolled in more than nine credit hours in eligible programs such as Environmental Technologies, Green Building Construction Skills, Biofuels, pre-engineering will be eligible for \$3,500 scholarships toward educational expenses.
- **\$68,500 for technical training:** Funds will be used for curriculum development in environmental technologies, professional development and supplies and materials.
- **\$110,596 for “Training Today’s Youth for Tomorrow’s Jobs” program:** In partnership with YouthWorks!, Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association and Habitat for Humanity, SFCC will help train at-risk youth in green building skills. Students will earn 9 credit hours toward a Green Building Construction Skills certificate as they construct a Habitat for Humanity green home in Oshara Village, this summer. Scholarships will also be available to students looking to complete their certificate. A groundbreaking ceremony will take place in Oshara Village on Tuesday, April 14 at 11 a.m.
- **\$110,000 for biofuels program:** Beginning in fall 2009, SFCC will offer a certificate program in biofuels, in partnership with local and regional alternative energy companies including Eldorado Biofuels.
- **\$89,584 for a joint engineering and technology program with Santa Fe High School:** The community college will act as a fiscal agent for SFHS to purchase classroom supplies needed for “Project Lead the Way,” a dual credit program focusing on training in pre-engineering and advanced technologies.

*(continued)*

*p.2 WIRED grants*

The WIRED grant project is designed to help stimulate economic growth and boost prosperity in targeted regions of the country. Grant funds allocated by the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions' WIRED program are designated for innovation and development of green manufacturing in New Mexico, which includes advanced manufacturing, green building and clean and renewable energies, according to the NM DWS Web site.

**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.sfcnm.edu](http://www.sfcnm.edu) or call (505) 428-1000.

###