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**SFCC and UNM to Develop Joint BFA Program**

**Santa Fe, NM, Thursday, Nov. 30, 2006** —Santa Fe Community College and the University of New Mexico have agreed to develop an innovative program that will allow SFCC students to obtain a bachelor of fine arts degree in studio arts from UNM.

The groundbreaking program will offer SFCC students the upper-level classes needed for a bachelor degree traditionally available only at four-year institutions. Although students will complete the majority of their coursework at SFCC, UNM's College of Fine Arts and Extended University will oversee the upper-level classes and grant the final degree.

"This is a great opportunity for both institutions. It gives us the ability to create a more broad-based arts education within the state," said Holly Barnet-Sanchez, associate dean for student affairs and technology at UNM's College of Fine Arts.

Once fully developed, the new program will allow students to remain in the Santa Fe area while they complete their degrees.

"We have students who have jobs and families. The two hours consumed by traveling between Santa Fe and Albuquerque are crucial to them," said Siegfried Halus, director of the fine arts department at SFCC.

The agreement to develop a joint BFA program reflects UNM's dedication to facilitating statewide access to bachelor and graduate degree programs, said UNM Extended University Vice Provost Jerónimo Domínguez. "This is the first on-site bachelor's degree that we will offer in conjunction with another institution and an exciting step in our commitment to increase access to higher education across the state," he said.

The partnership was inspired in part by the outstanding quality of SFCC's facilities, which include 28 artists' studios—private spaces for students to develop their artwork and store materials. "Very few colleges of art, and even fewer community colleges, have that kind of studio space. You just don't see that across the country," Halus said.

**(more)**

## **Joint BFA Program (continued)**

In addition, both UNM and SFCC boast top-notch faculty and an excellent fine arts curriculum. UNM's studio art program offers seven different areas of concentration — painting and drawing, photography, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, electronic arts and environmental arts.

SFCC's facilities, library and current coursework mean "students can already do some excellent art making in their first two years of study" and will be well prepared to meet UNM's requirements for degree completion, Barnet-Sanchez said.

SFCC and UNM will spend the next several months addressing the goals, curriculum, faculty, facility use, delivery models and transfer issues of the program as well as student recruitment and advisement. In addition, the institutions will explore the possibilities of other degree programs that could be offered at SFCC in the future.

"The new BFA program is our first foray into joint degree programs, but certainly not our last," SFCC President Sheila Ortego said.

## **About Santa Fe Community College**

Santa Fe Community College serves more than 14,500 students per year in its credit, noncredit and adult basic education programs. The 23-year-old college offers academic, career and personal-enrichment programs and services to meet the needs of business, government and the region's diverse population. The college contributes to the area's economic, technological and cultural development by offering programs ranging from art to business management and directly addresses regional job shortages through its nursing, teacher education and culinary arts programs. For further information, visit [www.sfccnm.edu](http://www.sfccnm.edu) or call (505) 428-1000.

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