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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**SFCC Starts Three New Career and Occupational Training Programs**

**Santa Fe, NM, July 10, 2007** — As part of an ongoing effort to develop academic programs that meet local and regional work force needs, SFCC is launching three new certificate programs in environmental technologies, facility maintenance technologies and engineering technologies.

The **environmental technologies certificate program** is designed to provide students with an understanding of sustainability and renewable energy as well as the skills needed to work in energy and water-related businesses. This certificate will become part of SFCC's associate of applied science degree in environmental technologies with concentrations in solar energy and water conservation.

“Santa Fe is uniquely positioned as a center of green building and renewable energy statewide and regionally,” said Lou Schreiber, director of work force training at SFCC. “Graduates from this program can seek jobs as installers in the area of solar energy and water conservation and will be well prepared to work in the public sector in regulatory, policy and advocacy organizations. In fact, they will have a strong foundation that will allow them to adapt to a wide range of employment opportunities or even start their own businesses.”

As part of the new **facility maintenance technologies certificate program**, SFCC students can take entry-level classes in plumbing, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC). In addition to hands-on training, the program introduces students to the field of facilities management and related new technologies. The program was created because of a serious need in the community for plumbers and HVAC techs.

“These jobs are in demand because of New Mexico’s growing building industry fueled in part by population growth and state building projects and upgrades,” said Al Reed, dean of business and technologies. “These programs demonstrate SFCC’s commitment to providing students with real skills for well paying careers in our community.”

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Students in the new one-year facility maintenance certificate program will take six classes and participate in an internship. The first three classes, which begin Aug. 18, include basic blueprint reading, introduction to HVAC-R systems and introduction to plumbing systems. The program also will include classes in basic electricity and controls, refrigerant management, gas piping and appliances. Students may choose to take individual courses rather than complete the entire certificate.

The majority of the facility maintenance classes will be held at a new SFCC lab facility at Hubbell Electro-Mechanical, 2818 Industrial Road, Santa Fe. The president of Hubbell, John Onstad, serves on SFCC's program industry advisory group and has been providing technical assistance, facility access and general program support.

The facility maintenance program will host an open house at Hubbell Electro-Mechanical from 3 to 6 p.m. Aug. 1 and the public is invited to attend to see the new lab facility. At the open house, interested students can meet with instructors and sign up for classes.

The closely related **engineering technologies certificate program** also prepares students with applied skills in engineering technologies, such as electronics, 3-D modeling and manufacturing processes. The engineering technologies program offers concentrations in manufacturing and architectural and civil engineering. These skills are immediately applicable to jobs and also lead to four-year degrees.

For more information about these new programs, contact the SFCC Customized Training Department at (505) 428-1617.

### **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. For further information, visit [www.sfccnm.edu](http://www.sfccnm.edu) or call (505) 428-1000.

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