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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Wide Celebration: Festival of Learning

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO – Santa Fe Mentoring and Tutoring Collaborative (SFMT) welcomes the community in celebrating the accomplishments and growth of Santa Fe's youth from **2:00 – 6:00 PM, Sunday May 5, 2019**, at the **Santa Fe Convention Center**. Each day mentors and tutors grow through their relationships with youth while helping them find their passions and potential. Through interactive exhibits, and performances parents and children will learn about these profound connections. Youth will represent a variety of organizations such as INSPIRE Santa Fe, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Communities in Schools of New Mexico, Monte del Sol Charter School, STEM Scaffold Santa Fe and dozens more. Wise Fool New Mexico and Aspen Ballet's Flamenco, will also join in celebration.

Santa Fe Mayor Alan Webber recognizes the direct, measurable impact mentors and tutors have on our social and economic ecosystem. The day of the festival, the Mayor will present his vision of a city where every youth will have an opportunity to participate in a caring, respectful and learning relationship with an adult volunteer.

"There tends to be a notion that education looks like one thing, done one way, in one place, for everybody. What's so wonderful about the Festival of Learning is that it breaks away from this one-size-fits-all model and demonstrates that there are many ways to both teach and learn. That the people who are the volunteers learn as much as the young people. By the end of the day, everyone has gained from this experience." Mayor Webber says.

SFMT's partners have identified that over 500 youth in Santa Fe are currently in need of a mentor and/or tutor. Todd Lopez, INSPIRE Santa Fe, acknowledges this growing need, "As a society, too often we leave the opportunity for these relationships to chance." Throughout the festival, community members are encouraged to meet with organizations so they can become mentors and/or tutors. The Santa Fe Mentoring and Tutoring Collaborative hopes that through this celebration more youth will be connected to caring adults.

For more information about this event, please visit: <https://www.sfmentortutor.org/events>

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About Santa Fe Mentoring and Tutoring Collaborative

The Santa Fe Mentoring and Tutoring Collaborative (SFMT) is a collaborative working group of Opportunity Santa Fe: Birth to Career, comprised of 20 mentoring and tutoring organizations. Our vision is that every youth in Santa Fe will have a quality mentoring and/or tutoring relationship, by expanding access to programs and relationships. SFMT is coordinated by a core group of non-profit organizations, including Santa Fe Public Schools, INSPIRE Santa Fe, Communities in Schools, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Monte del Sol Charter school, and the Interfaith Coalition for Public Education.

For more about the Santa Fe Mentoring and Tutoring Collaborative, visit: <https://www.sfmentortutor.org/>

About Opportunity Santa Fe: Birth to Career

Bringing together hundreds of cross-sector partners with [aspirational goals](#) and [collective actions](#), Opportunity Santa Fe is an ambitious response to the call to do better by our children and youth as a whole community. This joint collective impact effort is supported by the Santa Fe Community Foundation and the City of Santa Fe, with many community partners working together in [Collaborative Working Groups](#) to improve outcomes in a focused area across birth to career.

For more information about Opportunity Santa Fe please visit <http://opportunitiesantafe.org/> or email info@opportunitiesantafe.org.