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## NEWS RELEASE

Date: November 9, 2020

From: Santa Fe Alliance For Science

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### **Santa Fe Alliance for Science and Santa Fe Public Schools Sign STEM Partnership Memorandum of Understanding**

The Santa Fe Alliance for Science (SFAFS) signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Santa Fe Public School district (SFPS). This MOU formalizes and elevates the Alliance's longstanding partnership with SFPS through a cooperative agreement that outlines its activities to enhance STEM learning for students and teachers.

Specifically, the MOU spells out SFAFS's scope of work in Adopt-a-School Program at Nina Otero Community School, where SFAFS volunteers provide STEM learning and enrichment opportunities to K-8 students during school, after school and in summer programs. These programs are now being offered through videos and online tutoring because of the pandemic.

The memorandum also recognizes SFAFS start-to-finish STEM fair support, from classroom experiments that model scientific method, to mentoring K-12 students on their projects, to serving as judges in school STEM fairs and the district-wide Expo.

"I can't overstate the value of Santa Fe Alliance for Science," said Rae Sue Vigil, Nina Otero third-grade teacher, "and the support I and my classroom have received from their expert and generous volunteers."

"We're honored to be recognized by the Santa Fe school district for the importance of our work with students and teachers, and to have the assurance of a three-year agreement to continue and build on what we do," said Caren Shiozaki, SFAFS Board President.

Dr. Melissa Lomax, SFPS Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, said "The partnership of the Santa Fe Public Schools and the Santa Fe Alliance for Science is priceless. It is a vital complement to our STEM education programming for our students."

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*The SFAFS is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Santa Fe, New Mexico whose mission is to inspire the inner scientist in Santa Fe students by creating STEM learning and discovery opportunities through its network of volunteer scientists, engineers and other STEM professionals.*