SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Fe – February 23rd, 2024

Santa Fe County Clerk's Office Starts Democracy101 Events Ahead of 2024 Elections

Katharine Clark, the Santa Fe County Clerk, is pleased to continue the #Democracy101 program aimed at increasing youth voter excitement and participation in Santa Fe County ahead of the 2024 Primary and General Elections. The program, which returned to Early College Opportunities High School on February 23rd, focuses on educating high school students about the voting process in New Mexico.

Since the start of Clark's term in 2021, the Clerk's Office has targeted their outreach towards youth voters, including "I Voted" sticker design contests and Democracy 101 events. Both of these programs have received awards of recognition from the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the National Association of Counties (NACo).

Democracy101 includes voter registration, an interactive presentation from Clerk Clark highlighting the significance of civic engagement, and a mock election to familiarize students with voting procedures and tabulators. By creating familiarity with the electoral process, the program aims to boost young voters' confidence before they show up to the polls.

During the mock election, students will engage in filling out non-political ballot questions, which will be tabulated to simulate real election results. The program also aims to dispel misinformation about voting machines while identifying potential student poll workers aged 16 and up.

"We're encouraging early registration;" explained Clark, "this program underscores the importance of young voters' participation in elections. Pre-registration is available for students as young as 16, with automatic activation upon turning 18. Additionally, those turning 18 before a General Election are eligible to vote in the corresponding Primary."

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For more information, please contact Mitchell Cox from the Santa Fe County Clerk's Office at 505-992-9858 or visit http://santafecountynm.gov/clerk