

The Luna Light



“The People’s College”

Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America

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Abelino Montoya Jr. (center) presides over the Luna Community College Board of Trustees Special Meeting on Wednesday. Montoya was elected as Luna Community College Board of Trustees chairman. Kenneth Medina was elected vice-chairman and Dan Romero was elected secretary. Pictured (l-r) are: Ernie Chavez, Romero, Tony Valdez, Montoya, Medina and Frankie Tenorio. Also at the meeting, but not shown in the photo, is David Gutierrez.

April is an important month

By Dr. Pete Campos/LCC President

This month is proving to be filled with conferences that will benefit Luna Community College in the long-run. First, Dr. Vidal Martinez and I are attending the 2013 North Central Association (NCA) Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Annual Conference (April 5-9) in Chicago. This conference focuses on two of the commission’s projects which are in early implementation. They are: the Open and Standard Pathways for Reaffirmation of Accreditation and the revised Criteria for Accreditation. We will also hear from two keynote speakers: Dr. Elsa M. Núñez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University (recently ranked number 1 in retention of Hispanic students) and Dr. Candace Thille (Director of Carnegie Mellon University’s Open Learning Initiative). Our primary purpose for attending this conference is to meet with Higher Learning Commission leaders to begin the next steps toward our reaccreditation process. I plan to coordinate the reaccreditation process and write our self-study (with the help of all our Luna Family) and designate Dr. Martinez as our liaison with the

Higher Learning Commission to address day-to-day details.

Dr. José Garcia, Secretary for the New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED) has asked me to be part of a three person delegation who will attend a national conference (April 16-17) in Indianapolis to discuss the implementation of and recommend regulations for distance education. I am honored to represent New Mexico and have accepted the invitation. The Presidents’ Forum, the Council of State Governments (CSG), the Regional Higher Education Compacts and the Commission on the Regulation of Postsecondary Distance Education have collaborated and designed the purpose of this conference to advance an effective and practical framework to achieve interstate reciprocity in the regulation of distance education. The purpose of composing this State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is intended to broaden the availability of and access to accredited online degree programs by reducing state regulatory barriers while ensuring strong consumer safeguards.

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Several years ago, Mr. Abelino Montoya, then LCC BOT secretary and I met with Julia Galbadón, President/CEO and Retha Shippet, COO/Director of New Mexico Performance Excellence Awards (NMPEA) & Training Programs for Quality New Mexico to discuss the possibility of Luna Community College becoming a member of QNM. From that moment forward, the rest is history. We were acknowledged for our well-structured (chain-of-command) organization, transparency, accountability, vision, focus on and service to students, weekly *Luna Light* and months later, we were acknowledged for the fine work of Dr. Vidal Martinez and our faculty and staff on the LCC - QNM application. As a result, we have been awarded the QNM Piñon Award and will be recognized for our efforts at the Quality New Mexico annual conference in Albuquerque on April 22-23. LCC's next step is to move to-

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wards the Roadrunner recognition phase.

I have spent my life teaching, counseling, advising and administering in private business and public education. My career and focus have been to prepare the students of our region for their future. I've helped to motivate, encourage and prepare students (who have come from poor, humble and hard working families) move forward by not giving up. For example: after being elected by their fellow classmates, area students have gone on to serve as University Student Government Presidents and advance to positions such as a successful Washington (federal agency) Director and a successful Albuquerque private-sector business owner. Luna Community College will continue to serve as the catalyst to build the framework for our students to advance and become successful in their careers. Our students are our family members. We will do everything possible to help them succeed!

Members of the audience give the Luna Community College Board of Trustees a standing ovation after its special board meeting on Wednesday. Over 100 people attended the meeting which was held at The Rough Rider Grill. For more on Wednesday's special meeting and Luna Community College competition results from New Mexico SkillsUSA, please see Monday's *Luna Light*.



Luna Community College softball players (l-r): Keri Mays, Mercediz Bileen, Kaitlyn Gross and Shannon Taraddei look on during a game last week. The Lady Rough Riders host Odessa College on Friday and Saturday in scheduled doubleheaders for both days. The first game on Friday begins at 1 p.m. Saturday's first game is scheduled for 11 a.m.

Attention students:
Luna Community College registration for the summer semester is ongoing. You may look at the schedule online at www.luna.edu. Hard copy schedules will be available on April 12.