

The Luna Light



*“The People’s College”
Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America*

Volume 5 Issue 1

January 9-16, 2012



Albuquerque native Adrian Romero fills out some paperwork at the Luna Community College Admissions Office on Wednesday with LCC employee Cindy Branch. Romero is a freshman from Albuquerque and intends to major in liberal arts. The first day of classes is Tuesday, Jan. 17. The last day to register is Tuesday, Jan. 24.

LCC Softball Team hoping hard work, accountability turn into wins in spring

The following is an excerpt of an interview with Luna Community College Softball Coach Meredith Gilpin.

How did the fall season go?

We were able to play a full fall season schedule. In the fall season I try to schedule as many four-year universities so that I can give all the athletes exposure to the next level. We were very competitive and I was able to see all the lady athletes in some game-time situations. This helps us as a coaching staff to see the team that we have and know what we need to work on for the spring season.

Can the college carry the momentum it had from last season to this season?

Luna Softball after last season is definitely on the map. The schedule we have this spring will be very competitive but get us hopefully right back into the play-



**Elisse Tapaha
starting catcher**



**Evangeline Zamora
led team in hitting**

off hunt. The ladies returning from last year know what it will take to make it to playoffs and they are instilling that into our younger athletes. I believe that with the coaching staff and the players we have we will be able to continue that momentum for many years to come.

How does the fall season work, are records kept or are they unofficial?

There are no records or scores kept. We usually play with time-limits or open substitutions. This allows us again to see as many athletes as we can in a game-time situation.

What's the best thing you saw from your team in the fall?

The Lady Rough Riders have been hitting the gym a lot more this year. They were accountable for having a binder that they had to keep a daily log of practices and their own workouts outside of practice. This accountability will allow them to mature in the classroom but also helping the team increase in their skill level. We are getting most of our chemistry back and that is also something that we need to continue on for a successful spring season. We have a family that grows and grows every year.

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Can we all find our happy place?

By Jesse Gallegos
A Different Perspective

During Christmas break I had a lot of time to think. Maybe too much time. And mostly every thought came back to one thing—how do I bring happiness and joy consistently into my life and those around me—including us at Luna Community College.

If your life is anything like mine, there is triumph and there is agony. We hear about that American dream everyday of our life—but I think we all strive for one thing that escapes us—peace. Perhaps as human beings we may look at peace as unattainable. But is it?

In America, we are trained to revolve mostly everything around money. That old saying that money can't buy happiness is probably as evident as ever before.

So how do we find that contentment and happiness in everyday life? It may very well come down to the possession of basic human goodness. We need to preserve joy in everything we do even during times of difficulties and temptations.

There is not of one us that can change the world as a whole, but what we can do is change our own little part of the world for the better—and in our case it is Luna Community College.

I have said this before and some things are worth repeating—Luna Community College is the jewel of the Pecos River. We have a purpose like no other college in the state or perhaps in the entire nation. If it were not for LCC, many of our students would not have the opportunity for success. I probably have talked to or know 90 percent of our employees here at this college and what can I say, you are great people. But like society, sometimes we allow the little things to get in our way. At some point we all have to make up our mind to cultivate an environment of goodness and open our hearts to do this on a regular basis.

There is no better example in the college than myself. I allow the little things to bother me and forget about the big picture.

We can make Luna Community College better. But to truly make this a better place, we can't be overly consumed with what our colleagues or bosses are doing. Is happiness outside our own realm or is it hidden in each of us? Happiness and joy may very well be a matter of what we have inside our heart.

Here are a couple of other ideas I want to share with everyone....I want to congratulate the entire college for the most recent audit report. It is my understanding it wasn't just good—it was like Tony the Tiger says—it was "great".

I realize that I have been called a lot of things at this college...but what ever you do please do not call me late for supper.

Talk about inspiration. Our former

Humanities Director Eloy "Press" Garcia intends to take our wellness center challenge this semester to help get him into shape. What's impressive about this? He is 63-years young.

It is my opinion that we have to continue to see our current administration through. There are a lot of things that are coming to fruition and more are expected over the next 18 months. One, for example, is that our school is developing a pilot program in Mora which includes transportation for Mora High students to take vocational classes in the afternoon.

At this point in this column you probably expect me to write something classy or inspirational, but that's not my style—so I will leave you with this.

The other day I was cutting the lawn, but like usual my lawnmower was not working correctly. In this case it was leaking gas. So I went inside the house to get a bowl to make sure the gas would not get on the grass. While the gas drained into the bowl, I went inside to get a sandwich. When I went back outside I found my cat drinking from it. My cat went on to run around the yard; she then preceded to run to my neighbors house and back. Finally, she ran up a 20-foot tree and to my dismay she quickly fell to the ground. As you can all imagine what happened—my cat ran out of gas.

I have never admitted this publically, but I miss my mom and Coach Henry Sanchez a lot. Both passed away last year.

LCC to close on Jan. 16

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., Luna Community College will be closed on Monday, Jan. 16. It will resume regular operations on Tuesday, Jan. 17 which is the first day of classes.

Keep in mind that the last day to register is Tuesday, Jan. 24.



LCC MEAL CARD

\$50

Rough Rider Grill

Buy it at the Fiscal Office Today!

Results from fall 2011 employee orientation

It is always interesting to find out what people think of Luna Community College, especially its employees. For example, during the fall 2011 Employee Orientation, LCC employees were asked three specific questions. What distinguishes LCC from other institutions? What should LCC strive for in the future? And what steps should LCC take to realize the vision?

To answer these questions, we divided LCC employees into groups, allowing interaction and in-depth discussions. The results are as follows:

Institutional Research and Development and Effectiveness Director John Tiernan compiled these results.

Q1: What distinguishes LCC from other Institutions?	Results
Affordable	14
Small Class Sizes (individual attention)	13
Family Oriented (friendly staff)	9
Locations (Main campus, Satellites, online)	7
Accessibility (online, satellites, ITV, Dual Credit)	7
Quality Education Standards	6
Variety of program offerings	6
Hispanic Culture	3
National Accreditation for Programs	3
Small Campus Size	2
Preparing students for careers	2
History	1
Publically supported and subsidized	1
Hands-on training	1

Q2: What should LCC strive for in the future?	Results
Be the Go-to college	6
Be more visible in the community (focus on needs of communities)	5
Accessible education (Online, Satellites, etc)	5
Expansion (on campus and through technology)	4
Focus on preparing students for careers	4
Providing community oriented services	3
Prepare students for continuing education	3
Budget growth proportional to program growth	2
Help students become self sufficient	2
Dorms	1
Infrastructure Improvements	1
Summer programs for youth	1
Provide Transportation	1
Increase graduation rates	1
Seek recognition for quality education	1
Maximize retention	1
Licensing programs	1
Embrace change	1
Q3: What steps should we take to realize the vision?	Results
Collaborate with schools, community, and businesses	8
Get input from all levels	4
Focus on distance education	4
Expand marketing	4
Teamwork	4
Increase student population	4
Hire instructors with expertise in specific areas they teach	3
Reward leaders who inspire student success	2
Work on creative ways to get funding	2
Work together	2
Everyone needs to work toward student success	2
Consistently follow same rules for everyone (no more exceptions)	2
Growth of Staff (education, expansion into other areas)	2
Not just meet, but exceed standards	2
Provide dorms	2
Expand into new areas of existing programs (EMT, Diesel Mechanics)	1
Provide student recreation (TV's, Game room, Etc.)	1
Have more employee activities (during holidays)	1
Assessment of all services (job placements, services, etc)	1
Streamline the systems (cut the red tape)	1
Various levels of online training (mentoring program)	1

**Luna
CC:**

“The People’s College”



Top 10 Reasons for Completing Community College

1. You'll earn more! Students who complete their associate degree or certificate can expect to earn as much as \$8,000 more per year and about \$400,000 more in a lifetime than a high school graduate. ¹
2. You'll be prepared! People change jobs up to 10 times in their working lives – and when you are job-hunting, a college credential will always give you an edge. ²
3. Credential holders also are more likely to retain jobs. Unemployment for community college graduates is typically 30 percent lower than for high school grads. ³
4. You'll encounter fewer barriers to transfer! Many state college systems have articulation agreements that guarantee transfer of community college credits when associate degree students enter state universities. You'll save time and money by not having to repeat courses or take courses you did not know you needed. ⁴
5. You'll have the personal satisfaction of reaching your educational goal and having something tangible to show for it – something valued by employers, scholarship officials and transfer recruiters.
6. You'll help reverse a national trend in the declining number of college graduates, and you'll also open doors for your children. Children of college graduates are more likely to graduate themselves. ⁵
7. You and your family's health will improve. Research links greater educational attainment to longer life, healthful eating, exercising and avoiding risk factors. Better-educated people are quicker to change behaviors in response to new evidence. Better-educated people have higher incomes, making them more likely to have health insurance and live in safer neighborhoods with better access to recreational facilities and grocery stores. ⁶
8. You will be more likely to promote environmental sustainability. ⁵
9. You'll be more likely to volunteer, vote, contribute to charity, serve on boards and run for office. ⁵
10. You'll be an educated, prepared and higher-paid employee, providing support for federal, state and local governments and helping the national workforce be competitive and productive in the global economy. ⁵

Fiction: You can get a good job without finishing college.

Fact: 60 percent of jobs by 2020 will require a college credential.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 data

² Rosenberg McKay, D. "How Often Do People Change Careers?" Guide to Career Planning since 1997 (2006)

³ Internationally, College Graduates Fared Better During Recession, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 2010

⁴ The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, American Association of Community Colleges, The National Articulation and Transfer Network

⁵ With Their Whole Lives Ahead of Them, A Public Agenda Report for The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

⁶ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Commission to Build a Healthier America

Rough Riders to focus on one game at time

The following is an excerpt of an interview with Luna Community College Baseball Coach Antonio Siqueiros.

How did the fall season go?

Our team made positive strides throughout the fall. Each player has played an important role in developing individually in order to improve our overall team game. Our student athletes have worked effectively in the classroom throughout the fall. Each athlete who dropped below a grade of C or below was not allowed to practice or play until the grade was brought up to a C or better.

Our team faced a lot of adversity this fall, but came together and became stronger. They learned to do more with less, which led to motivation and determination. Their effort and attitude has led to positive results. Our players are still seeking the true definition of hard work and what it takes to compete at a high level.

How does the fall season work, are records kept or are they unofficial?

The fall season is set up with teams who we have the availability to play. The fall season is used to evaluate our team and see how it matches up with opponents. There are no official scores kept and stats are kept by each team for their own personal data. Rules are discussed by each coach and officials (Not necessary) before the start of the game.

What's the best thing you saw from your team in the fall?

Willingness to learn the game and do what is required and necessary to better the program. Baseball is a game of adjustment and braking habits is the hardest challenge these athletes face. Their ego and self-esteem was challenged every day, and they did a great job staying humble and never being satisfied, always striving to improve.

What is the weakness your team has to



Luna Community's Mike Valois taking a secondary lead against Highlands University at Brandt Park in the fall. Coach Antonio Siqueiros says his team strives to improve every day.

work on for the spring?

We are still learning the game, meaning the actual strategic side of the game. Learning the tactics and applying it during a competition will be our biggest challenge in the spring.

You have more experience on being a head coach. What have you learned over the last couple of years being a head coach?

I have learned to never stop seeking

knowledge and learning. The game and society is constantly changing and as a coach I have to be willing to seek old and new knowledge to keep creating our own strategic plan for our program.

How good can your team be?

As good as we want to be. Our hard work this fall and challenges we faced have given us the confidence to go out and showcase our skills.

How is the character on your team this year?

Our character this year is our team dynamics. We have players from different parts of the state and country. We have a lot of players from different backgrounds and cultures who have come together to reach one goal.

Do you want to make any bold predictions for the 2012 season?

Our team has focused on the thing we can control, the things we can't control is a waste of our time. So my prediction is that we will put our best effort and focus one game at a time.

Grade your team up to this point? (A being the highest and F being the lowest). And why this grade?

We give ourselves a "C" because we always look to get better.

Look for softball and baseball spring schedules in a future edition of *The Luna Light*.

Hard work and accountability...

Continued from page 1

What is the weakness your team has to work on for the spring?

We need to work on being consistent. It is important that we do not have too many highs or too many lows. We need to stay in level ground and always continue to learn new things and work on the strengths and weaknesses of the team.

What is the difference between the 2011 team and the 2012 team?

The biggest difference this year compared to last year is depth. I and Coach (Marco) Aragon have put many hours into recruiting and we now have multiple players at different positions. This will help us to work on the consistency and to give these athletes a chance to shine and be successful at this level.

How are your student-athletes doing on the academic front?

I am strong on their academics. If a player does not have the grades then they do not play or practice. I tell the girls "Softball will only take you so far in life but your education will last with you forever! Injuries or other events might take softball away from you but no one can take away your education." We send out grade scans every two weeks to keep encouraging that player/professor/coach relationship. Being a student-athlete is very difficult and requires responsibility. We try our best as a team to keep the grades high and everyone on track to graduate. We as a team are doing well but can strive to be better on the academic front.

Both of you have more experience on

being a head coach. What have you learned over the last couple of years being a head coach?

I require my athletes to be consistent, but as a coach I need to be consistent as well. We

"This team has the potential to be wonderful but they will only go as far as they let themselves go,"—LCC Softball Coach Meredith Gilpin.

run very organized practices and the athletes know exactly what I expect and if they fall short of that we have issues that we discuss as a team. I have learned to always keep learning. The game itself is constantly evolving and I keep up with any new ideas to make the team and myself better. I am reminded of how important it is to be organized and the time spent being a coach. I have also learned that I am not just a coach. I am a mom, nurse, counselor, teacher... etc We as head coaches take on many roles. I love what I do and love to learn more and more every year.

How good can your team be?

Our team will be as good as they let it be. I tell the girls all the time do not let Luna beat Luna. This meaning that we can not beat ourselves. If the ladies give all they have all the time and we lose or have a bad practice then we "tip our hat" to the other team or the game

itself because it beat us that day. If we continue to keep giving the college all we have I think the sky is the limit for this team. This is the year that we can be very successful.

How is the character on your team this year?

We have been gaining tons of character this fall. We have helped our team by having team bonding meetings, where we have learned about each other and respect each other as a part of our family. We of course have had ups and downs and we make a point to learn from both. We have an outstanding group of ladies that will not only be successful on the field but off the field as well. I am sure at times our character will be tested but I do believe that my coaching staff and team are strong enough to withstand any test. This team is very dedicated to the coaches and the college and show great pride for the town and community.

Do you want to make any bold predictions for the 2012 season?

We will make playoffs this year!!!

Grade your team up to this point? (A being the highest and F being the lowest). And why this grade?

I would give our team a B-. We still have growth to do. We have been very successful at times but at other times have missed the bar. This team has the potential to be wonderful but they will only go as far as they let themselves go. We are starting to believe in ourselves and the team as a whole. Once we can accomplish that and be successful we will be in the A range!

Weekly Activities

Monday, January 9, 2012

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. *DWI Class (General Studies/102B)*
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. *Hip Hop Class (Vo-Ag. Bldg./101)*

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Strategic Planning Meeting (LRC/ Lecture Hall)*
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. *Safety Belt Class (General Studies/102B)*
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. *Zumba Fitness Class (Vo-Ag. Bldg./101)*

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. *Hip Hop Class (Vo-Ag. Bldg./101)*

Thursday, January 12, 2012

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. *LV Board of Realtors Training / Sponsored: SBDC (Student Services/ Conf. Rm.)*
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. *Zumba Fitness Class (Vo-Ag. Bldg./101)*

Friday, January 13, 2012

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. *Hip Hop Class (Vo-Ag. Bldg./101)*

Saturday, January 14, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. *Defensive Driving Class (General Studies/102B)*
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. *LCC Board of Trustees "Work Session" (Stud.Serv/ Conf.Rm)*

Aim for the bull's-eye “Work Together”

By Dr. Pete Campos

Accomplished persons from all backgrounds have one thing in common – they focus on what makes them happy. To some, it's closing the sale of a home or vehicle, receiving good news after an annual check-up or giving birth to a healthy child. To others, happiness is just the opposite. It's buying that new home or used vehicle, courageously going through exhausting chemotherapy and eventually receiving good news that the cancer is in remission or committing one's life to obtaining the best comforting and rehabilitative treatment possible for a suffering child.

Whatever makes us happy, we want to share the good news, achievements and positive outcomes with our family, friends and in some cases, the whole world. In reality, happiness comes from within. We don't want to have financial problems, health issues or hear

tragic news about anyone, even if we never met them. What we do want is value in our lives. We value who we are, where we work and our everyday quality of life.

“To enjoy life's blessings we must concurrently understand, appreciate and learn from life's hurdles,”—Dr. Pete Campos

Unfortunately, sometimes, what we consider as an ideal personal situation is wrecked by the unforeseen and our own deliberative actions. Our lives aren't always what we would like – because life doesn't happen the way we plan it. But, there is a way to get back on track. It is rooted and stems from personal happiness. Being grateful for who we are, making do with what we have and aiming for

the bull's-eye as we work daily to achieve our hopes and dreams, balance our personal budgets and build upon our family relationships and improve communication with each other. Dr. Maya Angelou said it well, “This is my life. It is my one time to be me. I want to experience every good thing.”

To enjoy life's blessings we must concurrently understand, appreciate and learn from life's hurdles. While we may get a job or win a race and think we did it on our own – did we really? The answer is no. It took education, training, stamina, the right frame of mind, the help or coaching of others and opportunity. The same holds true for the employees of Luna Community College. *It takes all of us working together to improve our college standards, keeping our focus on preparing students for their careers and aiming for the bull's-eye - not being distracted by what we don't have - that will make us happy!*

LCC Spring Class
Registration
is ongoing.
The last day to
register is Jan. 24.

Hard copy schedules are now available—You may view and print spring schedules online at www.luna.edu.

LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING VACANT JOB POSITIONS:

- Adjunct Faculty/Per Course Instructor
 - Full-Time Faculty-Medical Surgical Nursing
 - Full-Time PASS Program & A.C.E. Lab Manager
- FOR JOB DESCRIPTION(S) AND/OR CLOSING DATES, CONTACT THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AT (505) 454-2503 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.LUNA.EDU

LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. ALL POSITION POSTING FOLLOW THE LCC AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN.

Government Contracting 101

Presenter: Elaine Palin, Advisor

Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP)

Will provide a fast-paced, yet enjoyable workshop on government contracting.

Time: 9 a.m. - noon, Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Place: Las Vegas, NM SBDC
Luna Community College
366 Luna Drive
Las Vegas, NM 87701-9838

FEE : \$29 (fee includes continental breakfast)
make checks payable to SFCC/PTAP

RSVP: To register visit:

http://www.nmsbdc.org/ptap_calendar.html
For additional information contact: Julianne Gutierrez-Ortiz
at 505-428-1343 or julianne.gutierrez-or@sfcc.edu

Sponsored By:

*The SBDC at Luna Community College &
The NM /SBDC Procurement Technical Assistance
Program (PTAP)*



COLLEGE NIGHT 2012

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012

5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

ABE MONTIYA REC CENTER

January 2012

RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	KNMX radio 4	LCC presentation- Headstart parents 5:30pm 5	6	7
8	9	KFUN radio-College Night, et.al 10	KNMX radio 11	12	13	14
15	holiday 16	KFUN radio-College Night College Night meeting- 11am 17	KNMX radio LV Day @ Legislature, 8am-3pm 18	19	School visit-WLV 20	Isleta Pueblo College/ Career Fair 9am-1pm 21
22	School visit & College Night promo—Roy HS, Wagon Mound HS 23	KFUN radio-College Night, et.al 24	KNMX radio 25	LV Night @ Legislature 5-9pm 26	27	28
29	30	KFUN radio-College Night, et.al 31				

LCC Board of Trustees table cost of living adjustments for full-time employees

The Luna Community College Board of Trustees tabled an across the board two percent cost of living adjustment for full-time employees during a board meeting on Tuesday.

The board asked both the human resource and fiscal office to provide several options for consideration. They will evaluate this information during a work session scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14.

Luna Community College President Dr. Pete Campos will not be included in any cost of living adjustment.

Thank you very much

On behalf of Luna Community College SKILLSUSA, I would like to thank the New Mexico National Guard--720 Unit for the use of their facilities. Their continued support of SKILLUSA, Luna Community College and the community is greatly appreciated.

Anthony Baca

LCC Auto Collision Instructor

LCC:
"The People's
College"

LCC Quilt Show display several items



These are items that were displayed by LCC students at its most recent Quilt Show.