

The Luna Light



"Creating Opportunities for You!"

Second Volume 1 Issue 4

February 8, 2018

Super Moon Marks Milestone for Luna

Creating a symbolic coincidence, last week's Super Moon marked a milestone for Luna Community College staff who celebrated the submission of the Show-Cause Report to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The Show-Cause Order issued by the HLC in November 2017 required the College to submit a Show-Cause report no later than February 1, presenting a case for retaining its accreditation.

"With every milestone we meet, I grow in confidence that we can do everything the Higher Learning Commission has asked us to do," said Luna Community College Interim President Ricky Serna.

The 126-page report, which is available for viewing on the College's website, is a comprehensive document providing narrative and evidence that articulates how Luna complies with all criterion for accreditation. Included in the report are responses to the findings and concerns raised by the HLC in the



Photo by Vince A. Marquez

Show-Cause Notification.

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Interim president schedules community forums throughout region

Luna Community College Interim President Ricky Serna invites you to attend one of three forums that have already been scheduled in Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer before the end of the month. A fourth forum will take place in Las Vegas at a later date. The forums are aimed at gathering feedback on how Luna can better serve the communities.

For more information, call 505-454-5367.



Mora

What: LCC Public Forum
When: Thursday, Feb. 15
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Where: LCC Mora Site

Santa Rosa

What: LCC Public Forum
When: Tuesday, Feb. 20
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Where: LCC Santa Rosa Satellite

Springer

What: LCC Public Forum
When: Thursday, Feb. 22
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Where: LCC Springer Satellite

Super Luna Connects with LCC Report...

Continued from page 1

“This report is a plan that reflects what we’re doing now; it’s the basis on which we will get better,” said Serna.

Part of the report’s cover page reads, “Over the past several months, organizational change at Luna Community College has been expedited by a sudden realization that the institution could lose its ability to remain operational. As is the case with most life-altering experiences, being faced with dire consequences prompted changes to behaviors that have compromised the faith and trust in our collective capacity to prepare students for the rest of their lives.”

“Creating Opportunities for You!” is so much more than a mission

for Luna, it’s a moral responsibility to the rural, underrepresented and impoverished communities we serve. For so many students, Luna is the bridge between an aspiration to better themselves and the academic preparation and confidence that’s necessary to reach their goals. For many, it’s an institution that allows for them to earn a credential while raising a family, taking care of elderly relatives and sustaining a way of living that’s engrained in their identity.”

Several committees comprised of students, faculty, staff, administration and community members participated in preparing the report. Other sub-committees were tasked with addressing complex issues within criterion, for example, shared governance and transparency.

The College encourages the public to view the entire Show-Cause Order report on its website at www.luna.edu under the accreditation link.

“The submission of this report is the start of consistently demonstrating our ability to work collaboratively with its valued stakeholders,” said Serna. A site visit will take place on March 19-21 to validate the contents of the report.

Comments on Luna Community College

Luna Community College is seeking comments from the public about the College in preparation for its evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The College will host a Show-Cause visit March 19-21, 2018, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission. Luna Community College has been accredited by HLC since 1982. The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation.


The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college to the following address:

Public Comment on Luna Community College
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on HLC’s website at www.hlcommission.org/comment

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs.
Comments must be in writing.

All comments must be received by Feb. 19, 2018.



LCC Baseball and Softball Scores

Baseball:

Feb. 2

3-9, L Eastern Arizona
4-10, L Eastern Arizona

Feb. 3

6-7, L Eastern Arizona
6-3, W Eastern Arizona

Softball:

Feb. 1

12-13, L Glendale CC
0-2, L Pima CC

Feb. 2

4-8, L Utah St. Eastern
0-3, L Eastern Arizona College
2-11, L Central Arizona College

Feb. 3

0-8, L Yavapai College
1-12, L Arizona Western

PHI THETA KAPPA



Jessey Martinez is pictured with Luna Community College Interim President Ricky Serna and Luna Community College Phi Theta Kappa Advisor and faculty member Dr. Twila Quintana.

Jessey Martinez earned one of the most prestigious awards a two-year college student can get. Martinez was selected to the New Mexico Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team. Martinez, a criminal justice major at Luna Community College, was recognized at the State Capitol recently.

Martinez, a native of Mora, will graduate this May with an Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice. Martinez intends to enroll at New Mexico Highlands University in the fall and major in Political Science and minor in Pre-Law. As a member of the All-State Academic Team, Martinez will get her tuition paid for.

"This is overwhelming," said Martinez. "I never thought I would deserve such an honor.

Luna President Dr. Pete Campos introduced the memorial. "I always wanted to be part of Phi Theta Kappa," said Martinez. "I talked with Twila (Phi Theta Kappa advisor and Luna faculty member Dr. Twila Quintana) and she had me fill a scholarship application. There was many in-depth questions about your life. It turned out to be thousands of words including an explanation on the journey to community college."

Martinez' dream of Phi Theta Kappa and earning an education almost did not happen. During 2013-14, Martinez was battling kidney cancer.

"I was sick for a long time after surgery," said Martinez. "It was during the recovery time that I had an after-life experience. As soon as I woke

up I said 'this is not going to be it; I'm meant for more.' I had to make a plan. And part of that plan was to go back to school. Luna was my only option being a single mother at the time. After I got better, I was able to start school in 2016 and go straight through," said Martinez.

Martinez credits a lot of her academic achievement to Luna. "I learned so much here," said Martinez. "Luna is a diamond in the rough. I had so much support from other students here that I didn't expect."

Martinez' goals have just begun. She intends to one day earn a juris doctorate from UNM and is leaning toward being a prosecuting attorney.

"Jessey's story is very interesting," said Luna Interim President Ricky Serna. "Having worked in education for many years, from time-to-time there is a student that overcomes adversity to fulfill their dreams. Jessey epitomizes this. She has overcome so much to accomplish her dream. She embodies what you can do if you persevere."

Martinez has good advice for Luna students. "I want to thank Dr. Quintana and Cindy Armijo (Phi Theta Kappa advisor emeritus); they advised and motivated me to continue with my education," said Martinez. "I recommend that Luna students look into Phi Theta Kappa. See what it offers. They will be surprised."

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“I chose Luna!”

Jessica Weber says college has family feel while offering quality education

Jessica Weber is a first-generation, non-traditional college student. Mother, wife, student, and employee are some of the hats she wears. To truly understand Weber, you have to understand her journey.

Weber, 31, will graduate from Luna Community College in May 2018, with an associate of

science degree in general science. In the fall, Weber will be attending New Mexico Tech on a full-ride scholarship. New Mexico Tech is one of the top science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) institutions in the nation. She has also earned a summer internship at Los Alamos National Labs, where she will be working under a National Science Foundation STeP, student internship, on a small business development project with the earth and environmental sciences division of the labs.

Weber’s story goes deeper than Luna, New Mexico Tech and Los Alamos National Labs, much deeper.

Born in Stockton California, after the death of her younger brother, Andrew May (aged 4), Weber moved to New Mexico when she was seven. She describes her childhood as a “transient blur”, in



Luna student Jessica Webber studies between classes.

which, she never lived in a single place for longer than two years. Jessica attended five different high-schools, never able to indulge in a single elective course, constantly trying to keep up with the demands of various schools’ academic requirements. At age 15, Weber lost another brother, Jonathan Pollock (aged 18), to a tragic automobile accident. With her mother already in a fragile mental state, Jessica was sent to live with foster parents. Under the care of her foster parents, she learned many valuable life skills.

“God has blessed me with the ability to efficiently manage my time, and the skills necessary to maintain such a dynamic lifestyle,” says Weber.

Efficient is probably an understatement. After she graduated high school, Weber got married, and focused her energy on raising her

family. Weber now has four children ranging from ages six to twelve. Once her youngest child became of age to go to school, Weber decided to pursue her dream of continuing her education.

Her schedule is quite busy waking up at 4 a.m., every morning. With the help of her husband, Adam, she then wakes up her kids at 6 a.m. and gets them ready to board the

school bus by 7:05 a.m. After Weber helps her husband get out the door, she spends some time doing housework, then she’s off to work and school herself. After spending all day at Luna and at work, Weber goes home, prepares dinner, and helps her kids with homework.

“It’s difficult to spend time away from my children,” says Weber. “I try to be an exceptional role model when it comes to academics, as well as all other aspects of life.”

After the children are in bed, it is time for her homework.

Not knowing the first thing about how to fill out a FAFSA, Weber says that the first people she met at Luna were the financial aid staff; Michael Montoya, Amanda Ortiz and Rochelle Mueller, and they played a crucial role in her success.

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“I chose Luna!”...

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“Luna is a small community college that empathizes with the life of a non-traditional student,” says Weber.

From that point on, she knew Luna was the place to be.

“Everyone was so welcoming and helpful,” says Weber. “The cost of tuition initially drew me in, then I was encouraged and supported from a number of faculty, staff, administration, and students. Not to mention, the resources that Luna has to offer are invaluable to me. Thanks to

Francisco Apodaca (Director of STEM Department) and Nichole Collins (NSF-STeP coordinator and CS Instructor), I am a participant in

“Jessica is a model student, she motivates and encourages others, and is a joy to work with,”— Francisco Apodaca, LCC STEM Director.

the NSF STeP Program, with which, I will be able to attend New Mexico Tech on a full-ride, as well as the LANL student internship. So many things have kept me here. I like to

think of Luna as my campus family.”
Weber plans to major in biochemistry or organic chemistry at Tech and perhaps, work as a soil scientist in the future.

“Jessica is a model student, she motivates and encourages others, and is a joy to work with,” says Francisco Apodaca.

A kind heart. A fierce mind. A brave spirit.

Compassion, perseverance, courage and kindness are the four words Weber likes to live by.

What a journey it’s been. With several chapters yet to be written.

Media Education Center Auditorium



Painting, electrical, mechanical and framing crews have started working on the Media Education Center. Auditorium seating is scheduled to be on-site the first week of April.

LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



2018 SPRING BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Opponent	Location	Time	Date
Tucson Tournament	Tuscon, AZ	TBA	9/29 - 10/1/2017
NMMI	Roswell, NM	TBA	10/6 - 10-/8/2017
Eastern Arizona College	Thatcher, AZ	TBA	2-2-2018
Eastern Arizona College	Thatcher, AZ	TBA	2-3-2018
Eastern New Mexico University	Portales, NM	TBA	2-9-2018
Eastern New Mexico University	Portales, NM	TBA	2-10-2018
Western Oklahoma State College (ENMU)	Portales, NM	1:00 pm	2-17-2018
Otero Community College	HOME*	TBA	2-23-2018
Otero Community College	La Junta, CO	TBA	2-24-2018
Dodge City Community College	HOME*	12:00 pm	2-26-2018
University of the Southwest	Hobbs, NM	TBA	3-4-2018
University of the Southwest	Hobbs, NM	TBA	3-5-2018
Odessa College	Odessa, TX	12:00 pm	3-9-2018
Odessa College	Odessa, TX	12:00 pm	3-10-2018
Frank Phillips College	Borger, TX	12:00 pm	3-16-2018
Frank Phillips College	Borger, TX	12:00 pm	3-17-2018
Midland College	HOME*	12:00 pm	3-23-2018
Midland College	HOME*	12:00 pm	3-24-2018
NMMI (Albuquerque)	Albuquerque, NM	12:00 pm	3-30-2018
NMMI (Albuquerque)	Albuquerque, NM	12:00 pm	3-31-2018
Clarendon College	Clarendon, TX	12:00 pm	4-6-2018
Clarendon College	Clarendon, TX	12:00 pm	4-7-2018
El Paso Community College	El Paso, TX	12:00 pm	4-13-2018
El Paso Community College	El Paso, TX	12:00 pm	4-14-2018
New Mexico Junior College	Hobbs, NM	12:00 pm	4-20-2018
New Mexico Junior College	Hobbs, NM	12:00 pm	4-21-2018
Howard College	HOME*	12:00 pm	4-27-2018
Howard College	HOME*	12:00 pm	4-28-2018
Western Texas College	Snyder, TX	12:00 pm	5-4-2018
Western Texas College	Snyder, TX	12:00 pm	5-5-2018

*All home games will be played at the New Mexico Highlands University Field

LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Day	Opponent	Location	Time	Date
Thursday	Great Western Shootout	Yuma, AZ	12:00 pm	2-1-2018
Friday	Great Western Shootout	Yuma, AZ	12:00 pm	2-2-2018
Saturday	Great Western Shootout	Yuma, AZ	12:00 pm	2-3-2018
Friday	Midland Classic Tournament	Midland, TX	12:00 pm	2-9-2018
Saturday	Midland Classic Tournament	Midland, TX	12:00 pm	2-10-2018
Saturday	Trinidad State College	Trinidad, CO	12:00 pm	2-17-2018
Sunday	Lamar Community College	Lamar, CO	12:00 pm	2-18-2018
Monday	Otero Community College	La Junta, CO	12:00 pm	2-19-2018
Thursday	Otero Community College	HOME	12:00 pm	2-22-2018
Sunday	Trinidad State College	HOME	12:00 pm	2-25-2018
Saturday	North Platte Community College	North Platte, NB	12:00 pm	3-3-2018
Sunday	North Platte Community College	North Platte, NB	12:00 pm	3-4-2018
Tuesday	Adams State University	HOME	12:00 pm	3-6-2018
Friday	Dawson Community College	HOME	12:00 pm	3-9-2018
Saturday	Dawson Community College	HOME	12:00 pm	3-10-2018
Friday	Howard College	HOME	1:00 pm	3-16-2018
Saturday	Howard College	HOME	1:00 pm	3-17-2018
Friday	Western TX College	Vernon, TX	1:00 pm	3-23-2018
Saturday	Western TX College	Vernon, TX	1:00 pm	3-24-2018
Tuesday	Adams State University	Alamosa, CO	12:00 pm	3-27-2018
Friday	Odessa College	HOME	1:00 pm	3-30-2018
Saturday	Odessa College	HOME	1:00 pm	3-31-2018
Friday	Frank Phillips College	HOME	1:00 pm	4-6-2018
Saturday	Frank Phillips College	HOME	1:00 pm	4-7-2018
Friday	Clarendon College	Clarendon, TX	1:00 pm	4-13-2018
Saturday	Clarendon College	Clarendon, TX	1:00 pm	4-14-2018
Friday	El Paso Community College	El Paso, TX	1:00 pm	4-20-2018
Saturday	El Paso Community College	El Paso, TX	1:00 pm	4-21-2018
Friday	Midland College	HOME	1:00 pm	4-27-2018
Saturday	Midland College	HOME	1:00 pm	4-28-2018

2018 SPRING SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Mora High School Homecoming Parade



Luna Community College Interim President Ricky Serna, Humanities Director Dr. Anita Roybal, Student Services Advisor and Recruiter Martin Garcia and Mora Site Coordinator Stacy Montoya give out candy, Luna Lights and Frequently Asked Questions information sheets during the Mora High School Homecoming Parade recently.



Barbering & Cosmetology!



Barber student Anthony Aragon with classmate/barber student Labeeb Shabaneh along with client AJ Aragon.

AJ Aragon son of barber student Anthony Aragon after his haircut.



Student Vanessa Martinez cutting client Lucy Padilla's hair with Instructor Germaine Sandoval overlooking service.

Student Leticia Duran cutting her classmate Kimberly Padilla's hair.

