

# The Luna Light



*"Creating Opportunities for You!"*

Second Volume 1 Issue 13

June 14, 2018

## **"Don't Stop Believing" College has made itself better over course of several months**

### ***HLC decision expected in late June***

It's difficult to believe that it's been over seven months since Luna Community College received notification from the Higher Learning Commission that it was being placed on a Show-Cause Order.

The College used the Show-Cause Order as a basis for expedited improvement. It's safe to say that Luna made itself better with several policy changes. The majority of changes are aimed at enhancing the processes by which the faculty, staff and students contribute to the well-being and strength of the institution.

Among the things the College had to do was to prepare a report in response to the Show-Cause Order that was due on Feb. 1. That was followed by an on-campus Show-Cause Evaluation Visit conducted by Higher Learning Commission Peer Reviewers in March. Most



Six Luna employees and one board member represented the College at a Higher Learning Commission Hearing on Monday, May 21 in Chicago. This photo was taken minutes after the hearing. Pictured (l-r) are Vice President of Instruction Dr. Sharon Lalla, Chief Financial Officer Donna Flores, Associate Director of Financial Aid and Shared Governance Council Chair Amanda Ortiz, Interim President Ricky Serna, Culinary Arts Instructor and Faculty Chair Jessica McGee, Board of Trustee Abelino Montoya and Director of Financial Aid Michael Montoya.

recently, six Luna employees along with one member of the board of trustees represented the College at a Higher Learning Commission Hearing in late May.

Later this month, the Higher Learning Commission's Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has successfully demonstrated

that it is now in compliance with the accreditation requirements and whether the College will keep its accreditation.

"I have a newfound respect for the Higher Learning Commission," said Luna Interim President Ricky Serna. "They've been nothing but open, consistent

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# HLC decision expected in late June...



Luna students and employees displayed unity over the last seven months reminding stakeholders that Luna does matter. The College started using the tagline #LCCmatters in December.

## Continued from page 1

and transparent in their process. We stand by the belief that the process has been beneficial to the institution. We respect what it put in motion; I thank them.”

Serna said that throughout the last seven months, a couple of moments stand out.

“During the Higher Learning Commission visit in March, Dr. Randy Hyman, the HLC review team chair told me, on the final day of their visit, that Luna had done everything that any other institution could have done in preparation for the on-site review,” said Serna. “After the hearing in May, a member of the HLC Board Subcommittee said that we should be proud of our presentation at the hearing.”

The Higher Learning Commission hearing gave Luna an opportunity to tell its story.

Luna Associate Director of Financial Aid and Shared Governance Council Chair Amanda Ortiz was one of the seven individuals representing Luna at the May hearing. Following is an excerpt of a prepared speech she read during the hearing.

*“When the Show-Cause order was delivered to our school in November, there was confusion, sadness, anger, and fear. Many tears were shed over the uncertainty of our future and what it meant for our students. Well, as information was shared and reality set-in, it was clear that the future success of our students was in jeopardy. It was fight or flight time, and I assure you, no one*

**“We know that each of us has a job to do and we have to hold each other accountable; everyone plays a role in our success. We have to stand by each other for the greater good,”—Luna Interim President Ricky Serna.**

*ran away from this. Our students are our most important stakeholder and we prepared for battle to protect them. We know their stories, their struggles, and their victories. We serve a diverse student population and without the opportunities that Luna creates for them, many would never be*

*able to attain higher education or gainful employment...Everyone wants to be a part of something they believe in and we believe in Luna. We believe in serving our students and providing them with affordable,*

*quality education. We hope to be granted the opportunity to continue serving our community.”*

In an exclusive interview, Ortiz says that she believes Luna is determined to grow as an institution and be better than ever.

Serna agrees.

“We’ve become empowered at all levels,” says Serna. “We are collectively moving the institution forward. We have come to realize that our fate is in our hands. We know that each of us has a job to do and we have to hold each other accountable; everyone plays a role in our success. We have to stand by each other for the greater good. We have learned during this process how capable we are as an institution and what we can accomplish in a short period of time.”

A Show-Cause Order is a procedural order that requires an institution to present its case as to why accreditation should not be withdrawn. While on Show-Cause, Luna remains accredited.

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Notice: Luna Community College remains accredited by the Higher Learning Commission while under Show Cause Order. For more information, please visit our Website at [www.luna.edu](http://www.luna.edu).

**SCHEDULE A CAMPUS VISIT**

#LCCmatters

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“Creating Opportunities for You!”



# Jimmy Santiago Baca visits with Luna Students



Award-winning author Jimmy Santiago Baca conducted a writing workshop with Luna Humanities Summer Bridge Program students on Thursday, June 7. Baca also hosted a poetry reading for the general public and visited with Luna faculty and staff.

# “I chose Luna!”

## Santa Rosa’s Jared Serrano says Luna his first choice



Luna’s Jared Serrano likes the college’s helpfulness. Serrano says that he had an opportunity to go to two other colleges but chose Luna because of how he was treated.

Cozy, compassionate and committed. These three words may be overlooked in the English dictionary, but to Luna Community College student Jared Serrano they are words that he says best describe the College.

“I like the size of Luna, so that makes it cozy,” says Serrano. “I feel that the staff, faculty and administration all give me a reason to feel that there is a lot of compassion here. Not just a false feeling, it’s an actual feeling of compassion. Through all the ups and downs that this college has gone through, I have seen true commitment from most everyone. There is a want for this college to succeed. It’s difficult for a person to be committed to something they don’t believe in.”

Serrano, a 2015 graduate of Santa Rosa High, had three college choices—New Mexico State, Highlands and Luna.

“The big factor that made me choose Luna is that when I came here I was treated as an individual,” says Serrano. “Luna employees made me feel that they were here to help me rather than help themselves. It’s been great being at Luna. I have zero regrets coming to school here.”

Serrano is majoring in Media Arts and Film Technology.

I would love to get a job after earning my degree here,” says Serrano.

“I want to design products and logos for companies,” says Serrano. “I like to create. It’s fascinating watching something come to life and let other people see it. It’s an amazing feeling.”

Serrano says that he has recommended Luna to friends.

“The thing I tell them is to come to Luna first and then transition to a bigger college,” says Serrano. “People here will prepare you to go into a bigger environment.”

Like many, Serrano is hopeful that the Higher Learning Commission will see how the college has changed.

“We’re on the right track now; we just need to keep following this trend of improvement,” says Serrano. “I want to see other people get the same opportunity I have. If there’s one thing Luna can improve on is for the college to have more campus activities. However, first and foremost is the quality of education which is fine. I feel that I’m getting as good of an education as my friends that went to other colleges.”

# ACE Summer Tutors

Academic Center for Excellence



Tutor	Subject	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Auritha	Math					8:00am-12:00pm
JaMarcus	Science					8:00am-12:00pm
Richard	Science/Math					8:00am-12:00pm
Liz	Math	12:00pm-3:00pm	12:00pm-3:00pm	12:00pm-3:00pm	12:00pm-3:00pm	
Ross	Math					1:00pm-5:00pm
Jonathan	Humanities/Computer Science	8:00am-1:00pm	12:00pm-2:00pm	12:00pm-2:00pm	12:00pm-2:00pm	12:00pm-1:00pm
Gia	Humanities	12:00pm-2:00pm	12:00pm-2:00pm	12:00pm-2:00pm	12:00pm-1:00pm	12:00pm-1:00pm
Aimee Lynn	Humanities	12:00pm-2:00pm	12:00pm-2:00pm	12:00pm-2:00pm	12:00pm-1:00pm	12:00pm-1:00pm

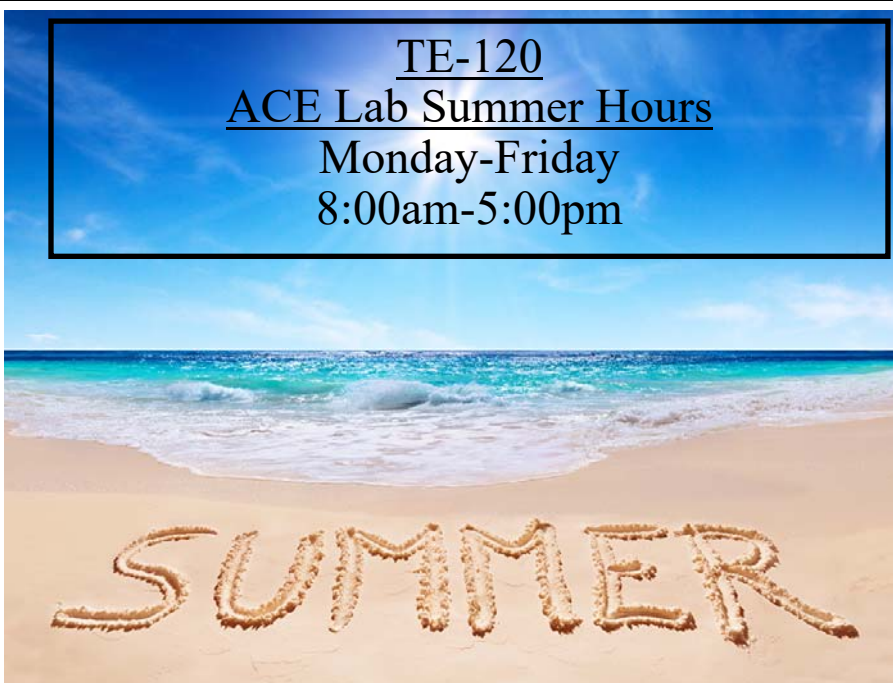
The ACE (Academic Center for Excellence) Lab is here to help you enjoy your summer. Stop by to use our computers for online classes, homework, or visit with our tutors for help in any subject area to ensure you have a stress-free summer and succeed in all your summer classes.

Math and science tutors are located in the Maria H. Paiz Administration Building TE-120 (ACE Lab).

Humanities tutors are located in the Humanities Building room 113.

For more information contact Ray Varela at (505) 454-5306 or [rvarela@luna.edu](mailto:rvarela@luna.edu).

TE-120  
ACE Lab Summer Hours  
 Monday-Friday  
 8:00am-5:00pm



# 14th Annual Car Show



**#LCCmatters #LCCmatters**





The Luna Humanities and Math Summer Bridge Programs got off to a great start. The Humanities Summer Bridge Program highlights skills in the writing process. This awesome opportunity for students is tuition-free with an excellent teaching and tutoring staff. Many activities are planned including a publication of student work at the end of the program. Pictured (top photo) are some of the students with Luna Humanities Department faculty, staff and director. Luna Math 102 Instructor Dan Gonzales lectures students (bottom photo) in the Summer Math Bridge Program. Math 102 is designed to take students through two semesters of beginning math in one semester and gives the students an opportunity to get all the way through calculus in a four-semester period. The Summer Math Bridge Program is made possible through a \$10,000 grant from Los Alamos National Lab.

Luna Culinary Arts Instructor Jessica McGee is the recipient of the Vice President's Outstanding Faculty Service Award for 2017-18. "I feel honored for being recognized," said McGee who was also the faculty chair this past school year. "It was a great opportunity to represent the faculty this year because we had great and strong instructors."

