

# The Luna Light

*"The People's College"*

Mission Statement: "Creating Opportunities for You!"

Vision Statement: "New Mexico's Premier Community College: Preparing Students for Success"

Visit us at  
[www.luna.edu](http://www.luna.edu)  
1-800-588-7232

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## LCC's Caroline Cobos says college has helped her through difficult times

### *Late father advised her to make good decisions*

Caroline Cobos remembers when she and her family were at home after church on Sundays. While her mom made breakfast, she and her dad would read the paper and watch television.

"One day he told me to help her," recalls Cobos.

Watching television, reading the paper, making breakfast—simple things—but memories that Cobos will not soon forget.

"I was always outside doing farm work with my dad," said Cobos. "He even taught me how to drive a tractor.



Luna Community College student Caroline Cobos addresses state legislators during a recent visit. Cobos told legislators that Luna Community College has been very essential to her.

The only thing he didn't teach me was to change the oil in my car and how to drive a standard."

Cobos, the youngest of three children, happily admits she was daddy's little girl.

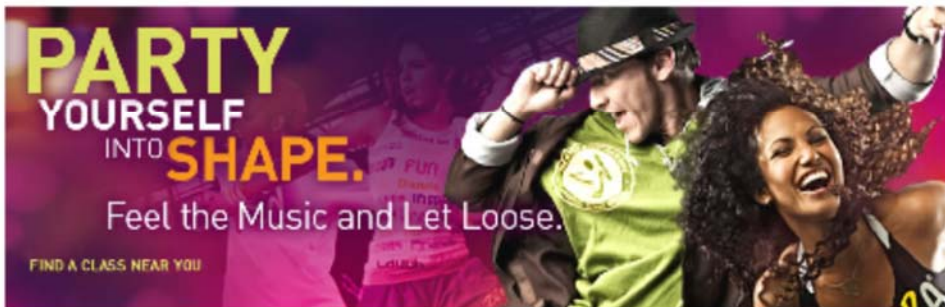
Her father Pedro Cobos Sr. died four years ago after a courageous fight with colon cancer. At that time she was a student at Highlands Univer-

sity.

**Continued on page 3**

Luna Community College Angie (Fereshteh) Manafy's science class went to the water treatment plant located in Montezuma as part of their research regarding water purification. The group is shown here in front of the Bradner Reservoir.





## Zumba Anyone?

Are you looking for a fun way to exercise?

Do you like Latin beat music and dancing?

How about getting rid of some extra weight and stress!!!

### Zumba Instructor, Louie Trujillo

Tuesday and Thursday

5:30

Luna Wellness Center

35.00 For eight week session

Call: 505.429.1062 for more information

Self paced

All fitness levels welcomed

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# Caroline Cobos...

## Continued from page 1

Needless to say, Cobos misses her father immensely.

“When it hits me the most is during his anniversary, Thanksgiving, birthdays and Christmas,” she says.

Aside from all the wonderful memories, Cobos says that before he died he gave some sound advice as well.

“He just told me to be careful in my decisions and not to get involved in anything bad,” says Cobos. “He basically told me to stay out of trouble and be happy in what I do.”

After her father’s passing, Cobos stayed in college; a decision she questions.

“I couldn’t stay home, but I probably should have stayed home and grieved. He was my best friend,” says Cobos

If losing one parent to cancer wasn’t bad enough, the day her father passed away her mom Angie was diagnosed with cancer.

“My mom is cancer free today; she has helped me so much. I love her as much as I loved my dad,” says Cobos.

This is where Luna Community College came into play—it gave Cobos a new start.

“Being here at Luna Community College,

my professors have helped me a lot—they helped push me to get better,” says Cobos. “It’s nice to have people that care about you.”

Although molecular biology is her first love, Cobos is on course to earn a certificate in culinary arts and an associate’s in vocational tech in May.

Recently Sen. Phil Griego recognized Cobos for her outstanding baking skills. She is

**“I would go up to him and tell him I love him so much and wish he didn’t have to go. I miss him every day,”—  
Caroline Cobos.**

the full-time baker at La Risa Restaurant in Ribera. Griego especially gave her credit for her rhubarb pie.

“People their love the desserts, chili and the communication,” says Cobos. “It just has a good vibe.”

Cobos said that one day she got a knack for making food.

“I made lasagna for my family one evening and it was so good my dad ate most of it,” recalls Cobos.

Aside from school and baking at La Risa, Cobos also works two other jobs.

She intends to finish her molecular biology

degree after graduating from Luna Community College.

Interestingly enough, she has narrowed her university choices to Highlands and California Berkeley.

“I made friends with a couple that graduated from Berkeley and they have a job lined up for me should I choose to go there,” says Cobos. “If I can’t find a job in molecular biology, I will open up my own bakery and name it Sweet Caroline’s.”

Cobos will always remember her dad and his advice.

“I work hard in

what I do,” she says. “

Cobos says that others in her situation have to move on.

“I know it’s difficult to lose a loved one; they will always have a special place in your heart. But they are in a special place,” says Cobos.

Cobos was asked what she would do if she would see her dad again for a few minutes.

“I would go up to him and tell him I love him so much and wish he didn’t have to go. I miss him every day,” she says.

Luna Community College students, faculty, staff and community, a Rough Rider Meal Card is available. The Rough Rider Meal Card can be purchased at the LCC Fiscal Office. For more information, call LCC Food Services Manager Paul Sandoval at 505/454-2581.

Las Vegas Water Treatment Plant employee James Perea explains the water capacity of Brander Dam to Luna Community College science students last week. LCC students make an annual trip to water treatment plant.



# Ramirez, Montaño win LCC Student Government elections

Victor Ramirez, who served as president of the Luna Community College Student Government last year, won his re-election bid. David Montaño won for vice-president. Ramirez defeated Amanda Leora Martinez. Montaño defeated Kevin Arviso. These were the only two contested races.

Also winning were Amberlynn Sena (Secretary) and Jamie Stewart (Treasurer). Joseph Esquibel, Jessica Sandoval, Carmelita Ulibarri and Chelsea Navarette were elected as senators.

"I want to thank the students that took the time to go vote," said Ramirez. "I wish more students would have voted. We want to continue a lot of things we began last year—continue the coat drive, a haunted house, homecoming and the game room."

One of Ramirez' objectives last year was a student game room. It is currently being housed in the LCC School of Business.

"It's meeting the objective which is to bring students together and increase communication among themselves," said Ramirez.

Ramirez said he has already met with most of the student government and intends to have a meeting very soon. Ramirez said he is encouraging representatives of all clubs and organizations to attend meetings.

Montaño, who returned to college this year, was equally as appreciative.

"I want to thank all the students and faculty that had confidence in me," said Montaño. "With the help of my fellow students I was able to spread the word. There was a lot of people that knew me. I'm glad they came out to support me. I want to commend my opponent. He ran a good race. I was concerned he would get more votes because he was younger."

**Notes:** The results of the contested races were: Victor Ramirez 65, Amanda Leora Martinez 40: David Montaño 63, Kevin Arviso 38.



## Autumn Harvest Celebration in Pendaries Saturday, September 20

**1:00 – 5:00 pm**

**Free Admission**

Classic Car Show with Luna CC

Mora Growers Co-op Farmers' Market

Horse Drawn Hay Rides from 3-5:00 pm

High Country 4-H Beverage and Snack Stand with all proceeds being donated to The Samaritan House

**Canned Food Drive Collection to help fill the pantry at The Samaritan House**

**5:00 – 8:00 pm**

**Cowboy BBQ Dinner with Music Provided by Tom Perry Pendaries Community Center**

Dinner includes:

Choice of BBQ Brisket or Chicken Potato Salad, Mac & Cheese, Ranch Beans, Corn Bread, Beverage and Apple Crisp Dessert

**\$16.00 Ages 10 and Older**

**\$10.00 Ages 5 – 9**

**Free for Children 4 and Under**

Seating is limited to 75 people. Reservations are required by September 17. For more information or to make dinner reservations, please call 505.425.3561 ext 201

# One-on-one with Luna CC's STEM Instructor Dr. Rita Surdi

## Tell us about your professional experience and educational background.

I received my BA in mathematics at San Jose State University in 1977. Upon graduation I joined the Peace Corps and taught math and science in rural Nepal. When I returned, I worked for about a year as a mathematical statistician in the Census Bureau. Thereafter I enrolled in graduate school at Indiana University and obtained a masters and Ph.D. in mathematics. After graduating, I came to Las Vegas, N.M. I taught at NMHU for five years and then joined the LCC faculty where I have been teaching ever since.

## Describe your teaching style or teaching philosophy.

When teaching mathematics, I think it's important to do a lot of examples so that students can grasp the theory behind the problem. I try to get students to think as independently and logically as possible. As with anything, doing mathematics well takes a lot of practice. I try to provide students with as much help as possible but ultimately, I try to get them to figure out problems on their own.

## What is your favorite part of your current job and why is it your favorite part?

My favorite part of my job is interacting with the students. Making that connection with the students is very important. It is very rewarding to watch them grow and see how they are able to make progress and improve their learning skills. It is also rewarding to see them going on and being successful in their chosen careers.

## What are one or two of your proudest professional accomplishments?

My proudest moments are being there when a student is graduating and I am very happy and proud for their hard work and their accomplishments.



Dr. Rita Surdi says that she is the proudest when her students receive a diploma from Luna Community College.

## How does your background and experiences strengthen academics at LCC?

With my background, I'm able to teach the upper division math courses that students will need if they are going on to a 4-year degree in STEM. I think this really helps bring the standard of education up in the STEM Department at Luna. It allows us to offer a 2-year degree in mathematics, science and pre-engineering.

## Jesse's quick hits

Remember to smile a few times a day. I hope this helps—Jesse

*What do you call a great painting by an artistic mouse?*

A mousterpiece.

*What did the courtroom judge say to the skunk?*

Odor in the court.

*What did the judge give the thief who stole the calendar?*

Twelve months

*What did the thief say when he robbed the glue factory?*

This is a stick up.



**October 24, 2014**  
**3:00pm**  
**Rough Rider Grill**  
366 Luna Drive  
Las Vegas, NM

Let us know how the  
School of Business  
can better serve our  
community.

Everyone is welcome to attend

***“Your Input Is Valuable”***

*Refreshments & Door Prizes*  
Contact: Amanda Lucero 505.454.2557  
[alucero@luna.edu](mailto:alucero@luna.edu)



*"Creating Opportunities for You!"*

Luna Community College will be going through an on-site re-accreditation visit at the campus on October 13-15, 2014. A team of evaluators will be conducting a comprehensive evaluation.

We encourage 3rd party comments regarding Luna Community College practices, procedures, and/or policies.

All comments should be sent directly to:

Mr. Lloyd Hammonds, Team Chair

[lloyd.hammonds@coconino.edu](mailto:lloyd.hammonds@coconino.edu)

# Viles and Crimmin Residence Hall dedication to take place on Friday, Sept. 19

## *Eight LCC students currently on Viles Scholarship*

It is with great pleasure that the Board of Directors of the Viles Foundation and the Crimmin Scholarship Committee invite the public to celebrate the dedication of the Viles and Crimmin Residence Hall on the campus of New Mexico Highlands University on Friday, September 19.

Please join in the recognition of Emiteria "Matie" Martinez Robinson Viles and Ken and Sue Crimmin as part of the NMHU Homecoming week festivities. The event is scheduled to begin with a meet and greet at 10 a.m. at the residence hall across from Melody Park.

To date, more than \$2.5 million has been awarded to qualifying high school graduating seniors. The Viles Foundation grants five-year scholarships to all qualifying full and half orphan graduating seniors from Las Vegas Robertson, West Las Vegas, Mora, Wagon Mound and Pecos. The Crimmin Scholarship is awarded annually to three qualifying graduating seniors from Las Vegas Robertson and three from West Las Vegas.

We strongly encourage the attendance of all former scholarship recipients and their relatives and friends. Recipients will be recognized. We are very honored and excited to share with everyone the



**Emiteria "Matie"  
Martinez Robinson Viles**



**Sue M. Crimmin and Ken Crimmin**

continuance of these legacies. We look forward to your attendance. Should you have any questions, please call 505-429-0508.

**Notes:** Several dozen Luna Community College students have attended and graduated from LCC with the Viles Scholarship. Currently, eight students are attending Luna CC on Viles Scholarships. These scholarships are 5-year scholarships allowing the recipients to achieve a BA degree after attending Luna CC.

As of Feb. 18, 2013, \$213,899.47 has been awarded to Luna Community College students.

In an effort to improve our readership, we are asking employees and students to submit e-mail addresses of anyone interested in receiving The Luna Light to [jgallegos@luna.edu](mailto:jgallegos@luna.edu). Thank you.

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**Wheelchairs NOW AVAILABLE  
for on-campus use by students in the  
ACCESS Center**

**Inquire within or  
by calling  
454-5355 or 454-2546**

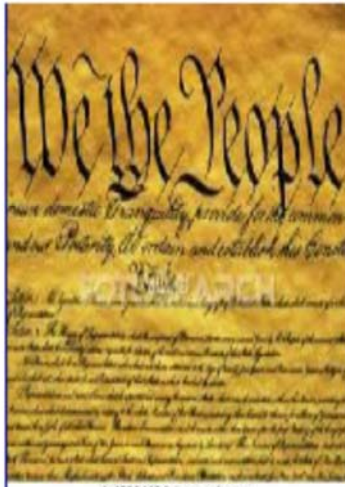




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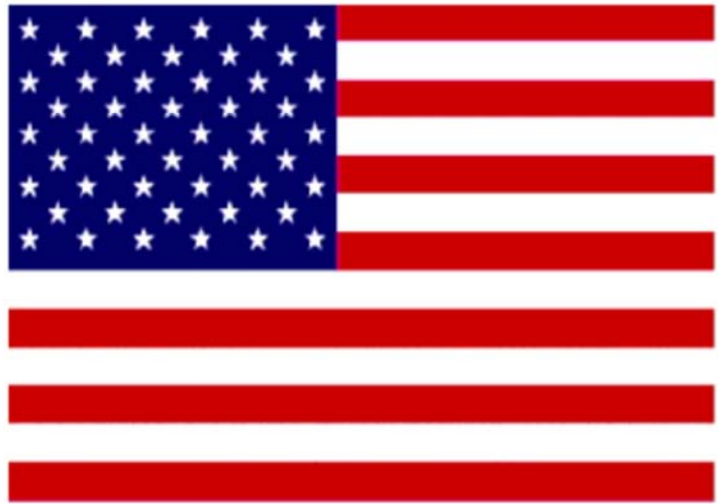
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**In Observance Of**



## **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION DAY**

**LEARN ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION, YOUR RIGHTS AS A U.S. CITIZEN, REGISTER TO VOTE AND ENJOY SOME GOODIES IN THE LOBBY OF GENERAL STUDIES/HUMANITIES**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th 10:00am-2:00pm**

Co-Sponsored by:

Department of  
Humanities

Criminal Justice Students  
and

LCC Faculty Senate



**The United States  
Constitution was  
signed  
September 17, 1787  
in  
Philadelphia, PA**

**Wednesday  
Sept. 17th**

**From 10:00 am  
to 2:00 pm**

**General  
Studies/  
Humanities  
Bldg.**

# **Register to Vote**



## **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION DAY**

Co-Sponsored by:

Department of  
Humanities  
Criminal Justice Students  
and  
LCC Faculty Senate



**Voter Registration  
courtesy of:**

**San Miguel County  
Clerk Melanie Rivera**

**and the San Miguel  
County Clerk's Office**

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# A journey towards excellence

By Dr. Pete Campos/LCC President

The next month will be filled with high expectations, excitement, and collaboration. It may even be an emotional roller coaster? We'll focus on our jobs, gathering more evidence for our resource room, improving communication with each other, and preparing for the big occasion, our Higher Learning Commission, North Central Accreditation team visitation which will take place October 13-15, 2014. Andrew Carnegie, Scottish American industrialist who led the enormous expansion of the American steel industry in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, said, "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision and the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

I've actually been looking forward to and preparing for this visit since I started as LCC President on July 1, 2008. I know many of you (LCC employees) have been preparing for this for some time as well. Our focus has been on quality education at an affordable cost to students, ensuring we have qualified faculty and staff, and following the pathway of encouraging student persistence, retention, and completion. This long and winding road (like the yellow brick road in the Wizard of Oz) has not been easy to travel. We've encountered the recession of 2008, loss of regional population, aligning curriculum to meet the educational demands of a more competitive and fast changing job market, and constantly reflecting upon the outcomes of our administrative, teaching, and support methods always to become more effective at preparing students for the future they will discover and encounter.

Some of the reasons for our success include: 1] We focus on students, not on ourselves; 2] We engage in broad support of each other across campus and our service area; 3] We have dedicated faculty who spend a lot of time helping students understand sub-

ject matter; 4] We listen to each other and support front line employees; 5] We have effective Board of Trustee and Administrative leadership; and, 6] We have institutional integrity and respect for each other. These characteristics have helped us build successful academic and vocational programs for students, kept students

motivated to work towards accomplishing their hopes and dreams, becoming better at performing our job responsibilities, and using best practices to take Luna Community College to a new level of performance.

We're not going to stop! We're developing new opportunities through information technology for student and LCC employee learning, building stronger community relationships,

strengthening all our academic and vocational programs, earning and maintaining more program certifications, overcoming hurdles that create temporary detours as we practice our college mission and vision, and sharing credit with each other regarding the many successes we attain on behalf of the college and most importantly, for our students sake. Steve Ballmer, CEO of Microsoft Corporation, said, "The number one benefit of information technology is that it empowers people to do what they want to do. It lets people be creative. It lets people be productive. It lets people learn things they didn't think they could learn before, and so in a sense it is all about potential."

Now, final preparation for the HLC comprehensive evaluation team visitation has begun. Dr. Vidal Martinez received the HLC team visitation schedule Friday afternoon, housekeeping chores are underway, 2014-15 college year departmental strategic plans are being followed, employee assignments for the visitation are being arranged, and evidence of much of the work we have done over the years is outlined in our LCC self-study or filed in our resource room or departments.

May our ongoing journey towards excellence be experienced and enjoyed by all of us!

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**Luna Community College**  
"The People's College"

# LCC Student Government swearing in ceremony



Luna Community College Student Government Advisor Dawna Ortega Gallegos swears in executive members as well as senators on Friday.

**LCC: "The People's College"**