

# The Luna Light



*"Creating Opportunities for You!"*

Second Volume 1 Issue 15

August 23, 2018

## Welcome Back Pizza Party planned for Thursday, Aug. 23



All students, faculty and staff are invited to a Welcome Back Pizza Party that will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 23 at the grass area between the Tech Building and the library. In addition to pizza, there will be watermelon, sub sandwiches, dessert and refreshments served.

For more information, call 505-454-5367.

Luna Community College students, staff and administrators have some fun during a watermelon eating contest last Friday at Student Orientation.



Luna Community College students Kylar Duggins, Jarrett Graham, Dylan Begay, Kyle Smith and John Wellington register for classes at Luna Community College recently. Duggins, a freshman from Aztec, is majoring in computer science; Graham, a sophomore from Farmington, is majoring in general studies; Begay, a freshman from Shiprock, is majoring in nursing; Smith, a sophomore from Albuquerque, is majoring in computer science and Wellington, a freshman from Deming, is majoring in accounting. The first day of classes started on Monday, Aug. 20. The last day to register is Monday, Aug. 27.



Early Childhood and Education Director Brenda Ortega and Interim President Ricky Serna were guests at last week's Luna Half Hour Radio Show on KNMX. Any student, faculty or staff member interested in being a guest on any of the Luna Radio Shows can call Jesse Gallegos at 454-5367 or e-mail him at [jgallegos@luna.edu](mailto:jgallegos@luna.edu).



Luna students Benito and Carlos Reyes of California take a minute to talk to Luna Admissions and Recruitment Manager Moses Marquez. Both Benito and Carlos are majoring in criminal justice.



## Feedback

In the spirit of continuous improvement, Luna Community College seeks ongoing feedback from students, faculty, staff, and the community we serve.

If you would like to submit feedback anonymously, you may go the Leave Feedback link at the bottom of our website at [luna.edu](http://luna.edu).

Thank you!

# Luna to host area high school students at Robot Institute in September

## Robot Rodeo Competition set for October

Luna Community College will be hosting a Robot Institute at its satellites and on its main campus in September, plus will offer a Robot Rodeo Competition in October. The Robot Institute and the associated Robot Rodeo Competition are sponsored by Luna in conjunction with the Los Alamos National Security/Los Alamos National Laboratory. The Institute will take place on Sept. 8 at the Springer Satellite, Sept. 15 at the Santa Rosa Satellite, and Sept. 22 at the Main Campus in Las Vegas.

The Robot Institute is free for high school students (grades 9-12) and is intended to get students together to form teams from local high schools. The high school teams will then have a final competition at the Robot Rodeo on Oct. 6 at the main campus in Las Vegas. Each school will get a

robot to build and practice with prior to the Robot Rodeo.

“The intent of the Robot Institute and associated Robot Rodeo is to promote interest in robotics and the associated computer coding,” says Luna Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Director Francisco Apodaca. “This is a great opportunity for area high school students to learn about robotics and promote STEM programs. We have had many activities for area students because of the support we have been given by Los Alamos National Security and the national laboratory. They have been wonderful partners and continue to provide valuable educational opportunities for our local students.”

For more information about the Robot Institute and the Robot Rodeo, please contact Luna’s STEM Department at (505) 454-5370 or (505) 454-2537.

## Mark Dominguez joins Luna BOT representing District 2

Mark Dominguez is the newest member of the Luna Community College Board of Trustees. Dominguez replaces Michael Adams, who resigned on April 24, and will represent District 2 (San Miguel County, Las Vegas area). Luna Board of Trustees voted 4-2 in favor of Dominguez in a special meeting held recently.

Dominguez shall serve until the next community college board election in November 2019, at which time he shall file for and be elected to fill the vacant position to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

“I feel honored to be part of a team that can make rational decisions for students and get them ready for the next level of their

education or career choice,” said Dominguez. “My family is living proof that Luna is a great school to begin your education. I have a son that graduated from Luna and it prepared him for Highlands University where he earned a bachelor and master’s degree. My second son took dual credit courses during his junior and senior year in high school at Luna, and it prepared him for Highlands University.”

Dominguez said he would like to see the College move forward.

“We need to work together and not worry about accreditation on a year-to-year basis,” said Dominguez. “It’s also very important to keep our accreditation for our employees. They should not have to be worried

about employment. If Luna were to lose its accreditation, it would be devastating to Las Vegas and northern New Mexico. We need to continue to build confidence in our students, our employees and all our stakeholders.”

Dominguez, 47, is a 1989 graduate of West Las Vegas High School. He has three children.



**Mark Dominguez**

# 2018 Student Orientation



#LCCmatters



**“Creating Opportunities for You!”**

# Frequently asked questions on Accreditation

On July 9, 2018, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) removed the Show-Cause Order on Luna Community College and placed it on Probation. While on Probation, Luna Community College remains accredited.

Luna Community College is fully committed to excellence and is working diligently toward meeting all criterion for accreditation.

## **What is the Higher Learning Commission and what is the goal of an accreditation agency?**

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is one of several regional accreditors that accredit colleges and universities. Its mission is “serving the common good by assuring and advancing the quality of higher learning.” HLC accredits colleges and universities in a 19-state region of the United States, including New Mexico. The U.S. Department of Education defines the goal of an accreditation agency “to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.” Accrediting agencies, which are private educational associations of regional or national scope, develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met.

## **What is accreditation?**

Accreditation is the recognition that an institution maintains standards requisite for its graduates to gain admission to other reputable institutions of higher learning or to achieve credentials for professional practice. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels



of quality.

**Is LCC still accredited?**

Yes. Luna Community College remains accredited while on Probation.

### **Why was LCC placed on Probation?**

Luna has been placed on Probation because it is not in compliance with all Criteria for Accreditation. Detailed documents related to the Higher Learning Commissions Board's decision, as transmitted to Luna Community College can be accessed by clicking on HLC's Mark of Affiliation at the bottom of the college's main landing page at [www.luna.edu](http://www.luna.edu) and following the hyperlinks to the College's profile on HLC's website, or by searching for Luna Community College's profile directly on the Higher Learning Commission's website at [www.hlcommission.org](http://www.hlcommission.org)

### **What is Probation?**

Probation is a sanction meaning that an accredited institution is no longer in compliance with one or more of HLC's Criteria for Accreditation. While on Probation, the College remains accredited, and it has the opportunity to remedy the issues that led to the sanction. The period of Probation is not more than two years.

### **What does this mean for students that are currently attending LCC or that will attend LCC?**

In most cases, other colleges and universities will continue to accept the institution's credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program. All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. Students interested in pursuing a higher degree or transferring should contact the college or university they plan to attend so that they are knowledgeable about the admission and transfer policies for that college or university.

### **Will students be eligible for financial aid while the college is on Probation?**

Yes. Federal Financial Aid remains unaffected during this period.

### **What is LCC doing to ensure that it remains accredited?**

Several team committees will prepare a report in response in to the Probation that will be sent to the Higher Learning Commission by Friday, March 1, 2019. Luna Community College will then host an on-campus Probation Evaluation Visit conducted by HLC peer reviewers no later than May 2019. Luna respects the HLC's decision to place the College on Probation, and we see this is an opportunity to strengthen our overall structures and operations and become a premier community college.

### **When will LCC learn if it remains an accredited institution?**

In November 2019, the Higher Learning Commission's Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has successfully demonstrated that it is now in compliance with the aforementioned accreditation requirements and whether Probation can be removed.

### **What can a student, employee or a community member do to assist LCC during this period?**

Luna Community College students, employees or community members are welcomed to share their views, concerns and ideas with College leadership. Comments can be sent via email from Luna's Feedback link at [luna.edu](http://luna.edu). The College will also host several open forums over the next several months. The Board of Trustees also allows for public input at each regular meeting.

As part of building Shared Governance at the College, staff, faculty, students and community members are invited to play an active role on institutional committees that aim to strategically address issues that will make the College stronger in our policies and practices. Luna Community College is your institution and we need your help to make it stronger.

### **Where can someone get more information on HLC Probation?**

A link has been set up to provide the general public with access to documents provided to the college by the Higher Learning Commission and documents that are being used to prepare the Probation report including drafts of the report itself. The link can be found on the front page of the Luna Community College Website at [www.luna.edu](http://www.luna.edu). Detailed documents related to the Higher Learning Commissions Board's decision, as transmitted to Luna Community College, as well as more information about the Probation can be accessed by clicking on HLC's Mark of Affiliation at the bottom of the college's main landing page at [www.luna.edu](http://www.luna.edu) and following the hyperlinks to the College's profile on HLC's website, or by searching for Luna Community College's profile directly on the Higher Learning Commission's website at [www.hlcommission.org](http://www.hlcommission.org).

### **President's Message**

Dear LCC Stakeholders,

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration at Luna, I thank you for your continued support for the institution. I also assure you that we are sincere about ensuring the College meets the HLC's Criterion for Accreditation. Not only for the purposes of restoring our accreditation, but because the process will surely yield a stronger community college.

I look forward to our interactions about how you can contribute to Luna's success. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or feedback.

Sincerely,

**Ricky A. Serna**  
**Luna Community College Interim President**

Attention students, faculty and staff

**Join us for free pizza,  
watermelon, sub sandwiches,  
dessert and refreshments**

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Date:** Thursday, Aug. 23, 2018

**Place:** In grass area between Tech Building  
and library



**Luna Staff  
Advisory Senate  
Regular Meeting  
Aug. 28, 2018  
9:00 a.m.  
Student Services  
Board Room**

**Main point of  
discussion:  
appointment of SAS  
member  
representative for  
Specialist/  
Technician/Other**

**For more  
information, call  
Karen Wezwick at  
454-2530**

**Register Now for  
Fall 2018!**

**Last day to register is  
Monday, Aug. 27**

**Call 454-2550  
to get started!**