

# The Luna Light



*"Creating Opportunities for You"*

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## HLC Show-Cause Order, the basis for improvement

Following a Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Show-Cause Order issued to the college, the Luna Community College administration went to work quickly on addressing the action and implications of the order. Luna Community College Interim President Ricky Serna met with students, employees and community members during four forums and also appeared in two radio shows addressing concerns and answering questions.

In addition, several

committees have been chartered to prepare the Show-Cause Order Report which is due to the HLC by Thursday, Feb. 1. The College will then host an on-campus Show-Cause Evaluation Visit conducted by HLC peer reviewers no later than March 2018. The peer review team will seek to validate whether Luna Community College meets all HLC's requirements.

"It's amazing to see the energy and expertise that has emerged from the work being

done to prepare the Report," said Serna. "The input of students, faculty staff and community members has the campus busting at the seams with talent."

Five committees have been assembled to address each of the criterion for accreditation. Two additional committees will address shared governance policy, and ensure accurate and timely communication is delivered to all stakeholders throughout the process.

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## Mares, Trujillo thankful for Luna Community College education

In May, 2018 Brittney Mares and JaMarcus Trujillo will be earning a bachelor of science degree in biology from New Mexico Highlands University. Both are thankful for the start they got from Luna Community College.

"Luna Community College helped me out a lot; it opened a lot of doors for me," said Mares who earned an associate of science degree in general science from Luna Community College in fall of 2016. "I'm planning on being a neurosurgeon. Luna Community College will help me stand out when I go to medical school."

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Luna Community College graduates Brittney Mares and JaMarcus Trujillo both have set high goals. Mares wants to be a neurosurgeon while Trujillo wants to earn a master's degree in ecology or organic chemistry.



# Show-Cause Order...

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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 being used to prepare the Show-Cause Order report including drafts of the report itself. The link can be found on the front page of the Luna Community College Website.

A HLC action letter communicating the Board's decision to Luna Community College Interim President, Ricky Serna on Wednesday, Nov. 8 indicates that a Show-Cause Order is a procedural order that requires an institution to present its case as to why accreditation should not be withdrawn. The HLC Board of Trustees issued the Show-Cause Order based on its findings of non-compliance following a Higher Learning Commission Advisory Visit to the College in June.

A Show-Cause Order shifts the burden to the institution to demonstrate that it is in compliance with all requirements associated with its HLC accreditation. If Luna Community College cannot demonstrate that it is, in fact, in compliance with all Criterion for Accreditation, its Assumed Practices, and the Federal Compliance requirements expected of all HLC-member institutions, the Commission will withdraw Luna Community College's accreditation.

In June 2018, 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 the Show-Cause Order can be removed.

Detailed documents related to the HLC's Board's decision, as well as more information about the Show-Cause Order 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).

"We respect the Higher Learning Commission's Show-Cause Order and we are working on a plan of action that will include: administration, faculty, staff, students and community members," said Serna. "The immediate response from employees is that we will stand together to successfully overcome this challenge on behalf of the students we serve."

A letter from Serna addressing the Higher Learning Commission's Show-Cause Order was sent via e-mail to Luna Community College students on Saturday, Nov. 11. Serna addressed Luna Community College employees in two separate forums on Friday, Nov. 10.

While on Show-Cause, Luna Community College remains accredited.

Luna Community College Registrar Henrietta Maestas and Dental Assisting Instructor Donna Ortega-Gallegos conduct a student drawing on Friday morning. Students who registered early for the spring semester were entered into a drawing to win one of two Kindle Fire 7 Tablets with Alexa and eight school supply gift bags worth \$25. The eight backpack winners were: Gabriela Pina, Audrey M. Martinez, Melissa Campos, Estevan D. Gonzales, Kendra Eve Flores, Pauline R. Marquez, Marcella N. Madrid and Erlinda M. Montoya. Winners of the two Kindles were Gloria E. Gage and Catherine J. Stauber.



# Thankful for LCC education...

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Mares said she is looking at attending medical school at either the University of New Mexico, Denver University or Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"I take it one day at a time," said Mares. "If I work hard now, it will pay off in the end."

Trujillo also earned an associate of science degree from Luna Community College in fall of 2016.

"I'm looking at either working in the teaching field or working in a chemistry or biology lab," said Trujillo. "Eventually I would like to earn a master's degree in ecology or organic chemistry. I didn't think I was going to make it this far. It was a learning experience that we took together."

Mares and Trujillo have a

daughter together, Zaishah, age 4.

"Having a child gave me a purpose," says Trujillo. "Our daughter wasn't born in the best of health, but I'm happy to say she's very healthy now."

**"This gem on the hill (Luna Community College) has a great support system. I have taken rigorous courses and never felt I was going to fail," —JaMarcus Trujillo**

Both Mares and Trujillo have lost a parent and are thankful for Viles Scholarships that have assisted them in paying their education.

Currently, Mares and Trujillo are working at Luna Community College's Academic Center for

Excellence Lab. Mares is a math and science tutor. Trujillo is an embedded tutor who accompanies students to classes.

"This gem on the hill (Luna Community College) has a great support system," says Trujillo. "I have taken rigorous courses and never felt I was going to fail."

Luna Community College Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Director Francisco Apodaca says that Mares and Trujillo are exemplary students.

"Brittney and JaMarcus are outstanding students," says Apodaca. "They had great initiative and leadership skills while they were here at Luna Community College. I'm proud of what they've done so far and am prouder of what they are going to do in the future."



Luna Community College Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Director Francisco Apodaca visits with Rio Gallinas School students recently about the importance of safety. Apodaca used liquid nitrogen to demonstrate gas laws in chemistry and physics. The Luna Community College STEM Department held science shows at area schools over the last two semesters in conjunction with a grant from Los Alamos National Laboratories.

# Santa Clause spotted at Luna CC Luminaria Drive on Saturday



Luna Community College students, employees and community members pitched in to make the 2017 Luminaria Drive a success. Community members had the opportunity to enjoy thousands of luminarias and other holiday displays during their tour.





# Luna Community College Students

## Are you planning to graduate in May 2018?

**Advisors from all departments will be on hand to help you finalize your spring semester schedules.**

### **When**

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday Jan. 8, 10 a.m. - Noon

Wednesday Jan. 10, Noon - 2 p.m.

### **Where**

Student Success Center, Room 111



For more information, contact Student Success Center Manager Renee Maestas at 454-5355 or via e-mail at [rmaestas@luna.edu](mailto:rmaestas@luna.edu).

**“Creating Opportunities for You!”**

# LCC STEM students attend LANL Regional Community Leaders' Update



Six Luna Community Colleges students attended the Los Alamos National Laboratory Regional Community Leader's Update Workshop were (l-r): Timothy Goetsch, Tyler Johnson, Jessica Weber, Richard Trujillo, Manuel Salmeron and Stephen Urioste.

Six Luna Community College Science, Technology, Engineering and Math students attended the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Regional Community Leader's Update at Northern New Mexico College in Española recently. Luna Community College students were invited as part of a collaborative effort between both entities, to promote understanding and interest in Los Alamos National Laboratory opportunities.

Luna Community College students who attended the Leaders' Update were Timothy Goetsch from Las Vegas, Manuel Salmeron from Las Vegas, Stephen Urioste from Las Vegas, Richard Trujillo from Mora, Jessica Weber from Golondrinas and Tyler Johnson from Roy. Goetsch, Salmeron, Urioste and Johnson are computer science majors. Trujillo and Weber are General Science majors. All six are expected to graduate in May and go on to four year institutions.

"Luna Community College is academically strong," said Trujillo who plans on attending New Mexico Tech. "I am learning a lot and doing a lot of networking. This college is oriented to helping students and do everything they can to get us to the next level."

Trujillo is the president of the Luna Community College STEM Club.

"Luna Community College has provided me a good foundation to start," said Goetsch who plans on attending New Mexico Tech. "I'm grateful to all the instructors especially Nichole Collins." Collins is the technologies instructor at Luna Community College.

Urioste says that he intends on attending Eastern New Mexico University.

"Luna Community College is a good school," said Urioste. "It's affordable and it's a good way to start off college."

Urioste says he wants to work in

the information system industry.

"Luna Community College is a great stepping stone," said Weber who is leaning on going to New Mexico Tech. "Our STEM Director Francisco Apodaca has made tremendous steps in bringing Luna Community College up to par with other colleges. He has assisted in putting students in dynamic situations."

Weber is the vice-president of the Luna Community College STEM Club.

"Luna Community College is good college and good place to get started," said Johnson who, after graduating from Luna Community College, is planning on attending New Mexico Tech University or New Mexico Highlands University.

Salmeron said that he is planning on attending Eastern New Mexico University.

"Luna Community College is affordable and a good way to start your college career," said Salmeron.

As part of the event, Luna Community College students had a chance to network with STEM community, be part of a LANL briefing and attend workshops. LANL Director Charles McMillan also gave a presentation. McMillan said that one-third of the workforce at LANL is a product of New Mexico education. Part of their goal is to attract and develop a younger workforce which will prepare the Lab for future decades. LANL has supported STEM education programs and scholarships for students from the region. LANL is recognized nationally and globally for its technical excellence. LANL is on track to hire 1,000 new employees this year.

# LCC cosmetology students getting practical experience that prepares them for job market



As part of their finals, Luna Community College cosmetology and barbering students took mini board exams to prepare them for an actual state board exam. The mini board exam is a replica of the state board exam. After a student passes their state board exam, they are eligible for a license in their field. Pictured clockwise are: Jovanna Gastelum and Savannah Ruiz; Dontae Robertson and Jerod Padilla and Fidencio Duran and Jeremy Romero.

**Note: *The Luna Light* is a bi-weekly newsletter that will be made available to Luna Community College students, employees and community members. The LCC Communications Committee agreed that it is another avenue to communicate information to stakeholders.**

## DEGREE PROGRAMS

### Associate of Arts

- Criminal Justice
- Early Childhood Multicultural Education - Early Childhood Teacher Concentration (Birth - 3rd Grade)
- Early Childhood Multicultural Education - Family, Infant & Toddler Concentration
- General Business
- Liberal Arts
- Teacher Education

### Associate of Science

- General Science
- Mathematics
- Pre-Engineering

### Associate of General Studies

- General Studies

### Associate of Applied Science

- Accounting
- Allied Health
- Business Administration (Online)
- Computer Science
- Drafting Technology
- Electronics Engineering Technology
- Fire Science
- Media Art & Film Technology
- Nursing
- Video Game Design & Development
- Vocational/Technical Studies

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Allied Health
- Automotive Collision Repair Technology
- Automotive Technology
- Barbering
- Basic Electronics
- Building Technology
- Business Management
- Computer Application Specialist
- Cosmetology
- Criminal Justice
- Culinary Arts
- Dental Assistant
- Early Childhood Development
- Electrical Wiring Technology
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) -Basic
- Fire Protection
- General Education
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)
- Welding Technology

## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Community Health Worker (CHW)
- Commercial Drivers License (CDL)
- Heavy Equipment Operations

# LCC: “Creating Opportunities for You!”

If you have any questions regarding any of LCC's programs or you would like more information to be sent to you please contact the Office of Recruitment & Admissions at (505) 454-2550 or 1-800-588-7232, ext. 2004.