

The Luna Light



*“The People’s College”
Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America*

Volume 2 Issue 39

October 19-October 25

The alternative: it’s time to step it up in state government

By Dr. Pete Campos/LCC President

During the past several months, discussions have centered around the state revenue shortfall, which governmental entities will be cut and by how much. Within an eighteen month span that will cover all of one and parts of two fiscal year periods, the revenue downward spiral will be more than \$1 billion. We all know what that means, there will be less to pay bills but it is our fiduciary and ethical responsibility to pay for obligated goods and services.

That is why we must step-it-up and meet our collective and individual responsibilities. What does that mean? Legislators must work together towards a balanced budget while considering the state’s obligations to those most in need of government and educational services. Every employee at institutions like Luna Community College must get into the habit of working with high regard for efficiencies without taking from the mission of student success. Each person must meet their personal obligations and give beyond 100

percent at home, on the job and in the community. If we all rise to the occasion, meet our obligations responsibly and encourage each other, we will weather what is deemed a perfect storm.

When times are tough and we ignore our personal obligations and the commitment we have to others at home, the workplace and in the community; we may become less patient, more willing to succumb to temptations that may get us to say, “if only I could do it all over again” and face long-term consequences that could lead to remorse and deep depression.

Why is this topic important at this time? Because in uncertain economic times, government and company leaders issue broad mandates that we must all cut a certain percentage of our budgets. However, these mandates usually don’t offer much guidance about how to achieve cost savings. Should we downgrade the materials we use?

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Luna Community College Dental Assisting Instructor Dawna Ortega demonstrates a bitewing X-ray on Dexter to her class. A bitewing X-ray is an intraoral radiograph that shows the crowns of both the upper and lower teeth on the same film. For more information on Dental Assisting, call 505/454-2528.

Miguel Martinez says employees should be open-minded to new ideas for LCC

Name: Miguel J. Martinez

Position: Purchasing Director

How many years at LCC (what year did you start)? Less than one

Favorite food and why? My grandmother's tortillas because they are thick and very delicious.

Favorite hobby and why? Playing my bass guitar in the band "Agua Negra." Music has always been a big part of my life coming from a family of musicians and it allows us to showcase our talents and keep our Northern New Mexican culture alive. Music also helps me escape the stresses life has to bring to us.

Favorite TV show and why? No particular favorite show.

Where would you like to see yourself five years from now? Well if the good Lord's willing and the creek don't rise; I would like to be working with LCC while raising my family with my wonderful wife and a couple more Agua Negra albums.

What do you like best about LCC? The opportunities and access to knowledge/education that LCC gives to both the traditional and non-traditional student are what I like, whether it be an accounting class or automotive class there are many venues where a student can further their education.

What do you like least about LCC and what would you offer as a solution? There are more critics than supporters. I mean, there are many that are negative and the majority of negative personalities do not want to discuss as to how we may improve.



Miguel Martinez, who plays bass guitar for the popular band *Agua Negra*, likes what LCC offers for both the traditional and non-traditional student.

We must all be open minded to new and other ideas.

What is your greatest strength? I am very outgoing and tend to look for the best in everyone.

The Guessing Game

Can you guess which LCC employee's picture this is? The first person to give the right answer will get a free meal from the LCC Rough Rider Grill. You may enter the contest by e-mailing your answer to jgallegos@luna.edu or calling extension 1200. LCC employees are encouraged to

turn in a baby photo of themselves to Jesse Gallegos at the LCC Student Services Building.



Quote of the Week

"We can keep our jobs by cutting costs and improving services! We must all step it up...and have a good attitude,"— LCC President and longtime State Senator Dr. Pete Campos.

The alternative...

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Reduce administrators? Strip-out bells and whistles? The common approach would be to do these things and much more. But is this the most effective way to balance the bottom line?

We can keep our jobs by cutting costs and improving services! The following is an example how: 1] we must all step-it-up by taking care of ourselves physically and mentally and coming to work every day with a can-do attitude; 2] respect each other, work cooperatively and move forward with our job responsibilities instead of adopting a negative or pessimistic approach towards our work and those affected by our services; 3] disaggregate and analyze the level and type of services students need, this will help us to better understand how to work smarter, provide more efficient services and incorporate more duties

that we may otherwise have the tendency to put-off; and, 4] don't let daily disappointments get us down, if others can do it - so can we.

Zig Ziglar said, "I don't care how much power, brilliance or energy you have. If you don't harness it and focus it on a specific target, and hold it there, you're never going to accomplish as much as your ability warrants."

I appreciate the words of Denis Waitley, "No man or woman is an island. To exist just for yourself is meaningless. You can achieve the most satisfaction when you feel related to some great purpose in life, something greater than yourself." I know if we work in unison, student success will be in our sights and before you know it, we will have honed the Luna Community College mission, which is greater than any one of us. *May you have a meaningful week!*



Nursing student Ruth Rosenbarker offers some cupcakes to fellow nursing student Melissa Trujillo during a fundraising bake sale last week for the Student Nursing Association. Also pictured are Ben Casey Encinias, Susanne Castellano and Teya Moore (sitting).

LCC: "The People's College"

Luna Community College students take trip to Las Vegas Wildlife Refuge



Pictured clockwise are: LCC student Chantal Jaramillo looks at different animal footprints; birds fly away after feeding at the Wildlife Refuge; Chris Leaser of the Las Vegas Wildlife Refuge shows Luna Community College students the different types of coyote furs; Luna Community College students Eli Gurra, Isaiah Aguilar, Justin Telles, Daniel Guerra and Arthur Davenport observe birds and wildlife through telescopes.

Luna Community College students take trip to Las Vegas Wildlife Refuge



Luna Community College student Robyn Olson looks at pelicans through binoculars. Also pictured to her right are Tomasita Smith and Rebecca Marrujo. LCC instructor Angie Manafy also looks at wildlife through a telescope. Behind her are LCC student Linda Cordova and Chris Leeser of the Las Vegas Wildlife Refuge. At bottom is a group photo of LCC students.



Luna Community College Vice-President of Finance Donna Flores: “We’re in it together”

By Donna Flores/LCC Vice-President of Finance

It may be several years before we see the upturn of this financial situation. We are faced with expenditures outweighing our revenue level, mandated state reductions and diminishing reserves. While students are paramount, it will take all of us tightening our belts, analyzing our spending in light of our mission and asking ourselves if each dollar spent is being done so with utmost scrutiny.

Speaking recently with a director I put it this way; the refrigerator may be old and the ice maker doesn’t work but, with less income and the car now needing a major repair, I think we can pull out the old ice trays and put that purchase on hold. It’s about priorities and prudent expenditure of our resources.

It’s also about shared governance; the executive managers will be needing input from all areas, we won’t make decisions unilaterally, your insight, your experience and concerns are to be part of the strategy. There will be cuts, that’s a given, but how and where we do so will determine if we’ve positioned ourselves for continued success in the out years.

Keep rumors where they belong. The facts are we are committed to safeguarding jobs. That means we may need to pick up the slack when there’s a vacancy or share resources when another department is

in need. Just like other areas of our lives, if you take an honest look at how we spend each waking moment, there is time that can be better managed. In fact, working more efficiently and doing more during your 8-5 hours is personally rewarding.

Recently, the fiscal office gave an older computer to another department whose data processing demands were not as high and could utilize the PC instead of buying a new one. Fiscal, in turn, asked IT to look at an even older computer for the work-study student’s office use. Those \$1,000 here \$5,000 there and the larger dollars saved in not replacing personnel will add up to significant savings.

The trades department is strategically not filling certain positions and filling ones in areas of demand and in need of a high level of expertise to maximize on student interest and to elevate the status of the department through certification.

Quoting from the White Paper, Increase Enrollment, Retention, and Student Success by Tim Beckett and Bruce E. McComb; “Colleges and universities have a responsibility to control spiraling costs. And that will require hard choices about where to save and where to spend. So I challenge state, college and university leaders to put affordability front and center as they chart a path forward,”—**President Barack Obama.**

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Skip Saurman from MEGATECH CORPORATION is seen here presenting to Luna Community College students on the Air Bag Trainer, which was recently purchased for the Automotive Collision Repair and the Automotive Technology Departments. This is a state-of-the-art Air Bag Trainer enabling students to diagnose, install and deploy air bags used in vehicles. This is a great addition to these programs. If you have any questions, you can call 454-2590 or 454-2591 to speak to the automotive instructors or visit our website at www.luna.edu.



Luna Community College employees Desiderio Sena (front) and Leon Roybal (on tractor) recently work on a landscaping project in front of the administration building. The picture to the right shows LCC employee Reyes Sanchez putting rocks around a tree on the same project.



At left is LCC employee Cindy Branch at an informational booth at Valley Middle School on Friday. At right is LCC sports performance instructor Henry Sanchez gives a motivational speech to Valley Middle School students on Thursday.

Mass media facts

Americans typically spend:

- An average of 32 hours a week (about 4.5 hours a day) watching television.
- An average of 15 hours a week listening to radio.
- An average of 3.5 hours a week listening to recorded music.
- An average of 8 hours a week reading newspapers, magazines or books.

Americans also spend a lot of time watching movies and playing video games. How much of your life do you spend with the various types of mass media?

The poet Allen Ginsberg said, "Whoever controls the media controls the culture." Are your thoughts and beliefs controlled or influenced by the mass media? Check out the new Mass Media Communications Program to find out more. Contact Rand Kennedy at 454-2564.



Luna Community College employee Diana Alderette at the 2009 Springer High Homecoming Parade.

Halloween recipes

Caramel Popcorn

- ½ lb. or 2 sticks butter
- 2 cups brown sugar
- ½ cup white corn syrup
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- ½ teaspoon crème of tartar
- 8 quarts popped popcorn

Melt butter in pan over medium heat, add sugar and corn syrup; boil for 5 minutes. Remove from heat add baking soda, salt and crème of tartar. Stir and pour over popcorn. (You may also add nuts—I like pecans or peanuts.) Mix well and bake in oven @ 200 to 250 degrees for at least 1 ½ hours—stir often.—**Terry Mares**

Pumpkin chili

Ingredients

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 2 (15 ounce) cans kidney beans, drained
- 1 (46 fluid ounce) can tomato juice
- 1 (28 ounce) can peeled and diced tomatoes with juice
- ½ cup canned pumpkin puree
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- ¼ cup white sugar

DIRECTIONS

In a large pot over medium heat, cook beef until brown; drain. Stir in onion and bell pepper and cook 5 minutes. Stir in beans, tomato juice, diced tomatoes and pumpkin puree. Season with pumpkin pie spice, chili powder and sugar. Simmer 1 hour.—**Marcella Cannone.**

Super-Easy S'Mores

Ingredients

- 8 chocolate or regular graham cracker squares
- 3 tablespoons chocolate-hazelnut spread
- 3 tablespoons marshmallow creme

Directions

1. Place graham cracker squares on a work surface; spread 4 squares with chocolate-hazelnut spread. Spread remaining graham cracker squares with marshmallow creme. Place graham crackers, marshmallow sides down, on top of chocolate-hazelnut spread. Place on a microwave-safe plate.
2. Microwave, uncovered, on 100% power (high) for 30 seconds. (If you want to heat the s'mores one or two at a time, microwave one s'more on 100% power [high] for 10 seconds or two s'mores for 20

seconds.) Serve at once. Makes 4 s'mores.

3. Peanut Butter S'Mores: Prepare as directed, except use chocolate graham cracker squares and substitute peanut butter for the chocolate-hazelnut spread.

4. Make-Ahead Tip: Prepare up to 30 minutes before serving. Microwave just before serving.—**Nancy Salmeron**

Mummy Wraps

Ingredients

- 1 11-oz. package (12) refrigerated bread sticks
- 12 jumbo frankfurters
- Ketchup
- Mustard

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Unwrap breadsticks. Stretch each bread stick to 12 inches. Wrap dough around frankfurters, letting the frankfurters show slightly through the bread.

2. Bake about 12 minutes or until bread is golden brown. Serve with ketchup and mustard. Makes 12 servings.—**Nancy Salmeron**

Jack-o-Lanterns

Ingredients

- Clean scissors
- Hostess Sno-Balls cupcakes (orange variety -- available only at Halloween time)
- Tootsie Flavor Roll Twists candies (lime flavored)

Directions

1. Using clean scissors, cut jack-o-lantern features into the coconut-marshmallow layer cover the Sno-Ball. Heat the lime candy roll for 5 in a microwave. Roll it in your hands to form a stem. Cut a hole in the top of the pumpkin and push the stem in place.—**Nancy Salmeron**

Halloween Web Crawlers

Ingredients

- 2 cups chocolate chips
- 2 tsp. corn oil
- 60 mini marshmallows
- 5 thin black licorice whips
- 20 tiny red hot candies

1. Place chocolate chips into a microwave-safe bowl and heat 2 to 3 minutes, or until the chocolate chips are melted. Add oil and mix well.
2. On a sheet of waxed paper, squish about 6 marshmallows into one round ball. Do the same with the remaining marshmallows, making 10 spider bodies in all.

3. Cut licorice into 80 2-inch-long strips.

4. Dip the balls into the melted chocolate. Stick in the legs--4 on each side of each body for a total of 8 legs on each spider. Add 2 eyes made of red dot candies to the top. Makes 10 servings.—**Geraldine Romero**