

*The latest news from Luna Community College*

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# Higher Learning Commission removes Luna from probation

## College on interim monitoring

Luna Community College is happy to announce that the Higher Learning Commission board of trustees has determined that the college is no longer out of compliance with criteria for accreditation and removed the college from probation. The college has been assigned interim monitoring. Luna received the good news from the HLC via electronic mail earlier this week.

“We want to thank all stakeholders including students, faculty, staff, administrators, board of trustees and community members who have assisted and been patient with us throughout the entire process,” says Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez. “We are committed to moving forward and continue to meet the needs of our students and our service area. We will continue to make Luna the best we can, always putting our students first. Luna has and will continue to play an important role in higher education, especially for students in our service area.”

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**Luna was advised this week that it was removed from probation.**



**Luna automotive technology student Josh Vigil watches a video during class on the importance of power flushing the cooling system prior to a water pump replacement. Also pictured is Luna automotive instructor Gene Sandoval.**

## Luna to be closed for spring break

Luna Community College in Las Vegas and its campuses in Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer, will be closed for spring break on Thursday, March 14 and Friday, March 15.

Luna will resume regular hours on Monday, March 18.



# Community Health Worker CHW Certificate

8 weeks | 10 Credit Hours | 24 Students Max

Total Estimated Costs (In-District): \$898.30

Summer Cohort: **June 3 – July 26, 2024**

Fall Cohort: **Aug 19 – Oct 11, 2024**

## Community Health Worker I

- ✚ CHW 101 (3 cr) Asynchronous: complete work on your own time, no formal class meeting time
- ✚ CHW 101LH (1 cr) Lab, **Monday 6:00 pm – 9:20 pm**  
Hybrid: meet face to-face or online (required co-requisite CHW101), must have webcam to participate online

## Community Health Worker II

- ✚ CHW 102 (3 cr) Asynchronous: complete work on your own time, no formal class meeting time
- ✚ CHW102LH (1 cr) Lab **Wednesday 6:00 pm – 9:20 pm**  
Hybrid: meet face to-face or online (required co-requisite with CHW102), must have webcam to participate online

## Community Health Worker Field/Clinical

- ✚ CHW110 (2 cr); Work on your own and in-person

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Community Health Workers (CHWs) assist individuals and communities in adopting and maintaining positive health behaviors as well as helping people access health care and social services to build healthier communities.



Supported by the Northern NM Workforce Integration Network (WIN) Grant and Integrated Educational Training instructional support from Adult Education and a WIN Navigator

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# Luna removed from probation...

Continued from page 1

As part of the letter received by the college, the HLC wrote, in taking this action, the Board considered materials from the most recent comprehensive evaluation, including, but not limited to: the Assurance Filing the Institution submitted, the report from the comprehensive evaluation team, the report of the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) Hearing Committee, and the institutional responses to these reports.

“This is a positive step forward for Luna. We’re thankful for the hard work of many individuals that made this possible,” said Luna nursing director Maxine Hughes. Hughes has been at Luna for 27 years.

Luna had operated under HLC sanctions since November 2017, when the Chicago-based regional accrediting agency issued a show-cause order. The college’s initial response to the show-cause order, accompanied by an outpouring of testimonials, resulted in the HLC lifting the order and placing Luna on probation starting in June 2018. Sanctions were lifted during a brief period beginning in late November 2020, however, about a year later Luna was placed back on probation.

“We are committed as a college to do everything we can to remain in compliance with the HLC,” says Dr. Martinez. “This has been a tough road and we are grateful of the HLC decision. We have learned a lot over the course of the last few years and the faculty, staff, administration and board of trustees are prepared to continue to do the hard work needed to make this a better college for our students and communities.”

In a summary of the action taken by the HLC, the (HLC) Board determined that the Institution is no longer out of compliance with the Criteria for Accreditation and removed the Institution from Probation and assigned interim monitoring. This action also resulted in a reaffirmation of the Institution’s accreditation, as outlined. The Institution meets Core Components 4.A, 4.B, 5.B and 5.C with concerns. The Institution is required to host a Focused Visit, no later than November 2025.

“I am happy for LCC to be off of probationary status. Congratulations to all of LCC,” says Luna computer science instructor Nichole Collins. “The work to get here won’t stop as LCC is an asset to our students and communities.

“It was a lot of hard work by everyone on campus. I feel that we have shown HLC and the community that Lu-

na is a solid institution in higher learning,” says Luna welding instructor Gene Martinez.

Over the years, Luna has continued efforts to address the areas of deficiency raised in the original show-cause order and probation. This past fall semester, Luna hosted an HLC team focused visit. Soon after, the college prepared a report that updated reviewers on ongoing work to meet the areas of concern.

For the past few years, Luna administrators, faculty, staff and board of trustees have attended the HLC conference in Chicago to learn more about the HLC accreditation expectations.

As part of the comprehensive evaluation, the Institution has been placed on the Standard Pathway with its next comprehensive evaluation for reaffirmation of accreditation in 2027-28.

“It’s a big sigh of relief,” said Emily Ulibarri, Santa Rosa Satellite manager. “Now the college is in a position to continue to move forward.”

The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities that have a home base in one of 19 states that stretch from West Virginia to Arizona. HLC is a private, non-profit accrediting agency. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation

Luna has been accredited by the HLC since 1982. The college offers approximately 30 certificate and associate degree programs in seven departments – Allied Health Sciences and Public Service, Business, Career and Technical Education, Early Childhood Education, Humanities, Nursing and STEM.

“We want to thank the Higher Learning Commission for providing the guidance to make Luna a stronger institution,” said Dr. Martinez.

Luna has remained accredited throughout the college’s Show Cause and probationary status. For more on the HLC summary of action letter, please visit Luna’s website at [luna.edu](http://luna.edu) or the HLC website at <https://www.hlcommission.org>.

“I think that the journey we’ve had for the last six years has opened up many peoples eyes as to what’s expected of an institution of higher learning,” said Matthew Griego, Luna’s life safety and physical plant director. “This journey will enable Luna to move forward in efficacious way.”

**“I am happy for LCC to be off of probationary status. Congratulations to all of LCC,”—Luna computer science instructor Nichole Collins. “**



# Emergency Medical Technician

## EMT Certificate

2 Semesters | 17 Credit Hours

The certificate in Emergency Medical Technician – Basic prepares individuals to sit for the National Registry EMT certification exam **after the first semester.**

Pre-requisite/co-requisite: AH 120, CPR for Health Professionals or hold a current CPR for Health Professionals certification

### Semester 1:

#### EMT-Basic

- ✚ EMT 150 (8 cr), **Mon and Wed 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm**
- ✚ EMT 150L (3 cr) Lab, **Fri 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

#### EMT Basic Field Experience/Clinical

- ✚ EMT 180 (1 cr), at site -- no class meeting time

### Semester 2:

#### Allied Health

- ✚ AH 101, Medical and Health Career Exploration (2 cr)
- ✚ AH 113, Medical Terminology (3 cr)

Completion of this certificate can be applied toward the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Allied Health.

Note: The Luna EMT certificate will be issued only to those students who successfully pass the National Registry EMT Certification Exam.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) assist individuals and communities in adopting and maintaining positive health behaviors as well as helping people access health care and social services to build healthier communities.



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# Luna to offer community health worker classes

Luna is going to offer community health worker classes this summer which leads to a Community Health Worker certificate.

“Students that complete the 10 hours of classes can apply for a New Mexico Community Health Worker level 1 license,” says Denise Fox, CHW faculty.

Currently, Fox is joining with Donna Ortega Gallegos in teaching CHW classes.

The classes that will be offered this summer from June 3 to July 26 are CHW 101 (asynchronous or virtual along with a lab portion); CHW 102 (asynchronous or virtual along with a lab portion) and CHW 110 (clinical portion). All the classes will be evening courses with the exception of the practicum which has to be done in person (45 hours).

“Enrolling in the CHW program is a good introduction to a health field; it helps you learn better communication skills,” says Fox. “Community Health workers help people navigate the health care system.”

For more information on Luna’s Community Health Worker certificate, call Fox at 505-454-5382 or via email at [dfox@luna.edu](mailto:dfox@luna.edu).



**Luna student Eden Romero is pictured with Luna art instructor Bernadette Maldonado. Romero is showing a beautiful drawing of a horse he drew during a recent field trip by the class. “Eden showed just what it is to be an artist and the power of the artist’s interpretation of the world around us,” says Maldonado.**



**Several Luna welding students recently earned their AWS certification. Pictured are: Luna welding instructor Gene Martinez, AWS certifier Michael Thomas, Justin Romero, William Linzie, Dante Alcon, Marco Salinas, Gabriel Lopez, Marcus Jay Rasco, Victor Phillips, Isaac Archuleta, Not pictured are Gabriel Pacheco Marcus Montano and Vid Lucero.**

**Note: Gabriel Lopez passed a multiple AWS/API 12 inch pipe tee certification. He is one of Martinez’ few students to do so since he has been teaching at Luna.**

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### LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



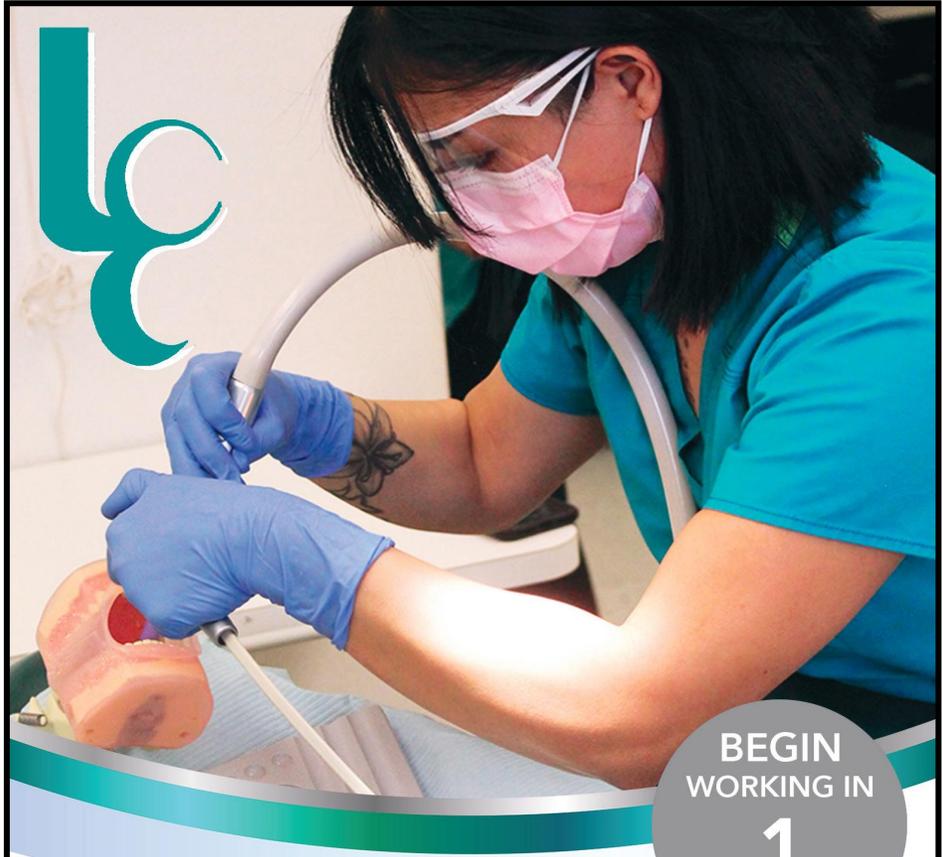
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Contact:  
Denise Fox 505.454-5382 [dfox@luna.edu](mailto:dfox@luna.edu)



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**Luna Community College**  
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# Lady Rough Riders open up conference play this weekend

The Luna Community College softball team split four games with El Paso Community College at home this past weekend. The Lady Rough Riders lost the first game 20-12, won the second game 9-2, lost the third game 21-11 and won the fourth game 9-7. The Lady Rough Riders are now 12-11 on the year.

Luna is scheduled to open up Region 9 conference competition this Sunday at Otero. They return home to play a scheduled double-header beginning at 1 p.m. on Mon-



The Luna softball team are pictured here between games last week versus El Paso Community College.

day, March 11.

“We’re playing well; we’re getting better. We need to keep hitting

our spots and trusting our defense,” said Luna coach Randall Krutsch.

The Luna baseball team (0-18) will play Wayland Baptist JV on Saturday, March 16 at Rodriguez Field. The first game of a double-header is scheduled to begin at noon.

“From our last games and the last two weeks of practices, we have gotten back to the fundamentals of the game,” said Luna first-year coach Erick Wright. “The players are working hard every day and we’re all excited about conference play.”

The Rough Riders begin conference play on the road against Western Nebraska on March 23-24.

**Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez along with Wildfire Resiliency Training Center director Rafael D’Amato recently provided Luna employees information on the WRTC. The approximately 25 employees who attended the information session also got to watch two videos that the college will be using to promote the Wildfire Resiliency Training Center. Also pictured in the background is Luna recruiter Reyes Montoya who helped out during the presentation.**



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Register today and become a  
wildfire-resilient participant  
and community member!



Luna  
Community  
College

## Why Attend?

- ◆ To learn essential skills in wildfire prevention and response
- ◆ To equip yourself with specialized knowledge
- ◆ To earn money at a job you love

To ensure the safety and well-being of your home, your school, or your community and family.

For more information and sign-up details, contact us at:

**wrtc@luna.edu**  
**(505) 454-5364.**

