

The Luna Light



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“The People’s College”

Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America



Many Luna Community College students and staff enjoyed a school-sponsored barbeque on Wednesday at the SMET Patio. More activities will be held this summer.

Former LCC nursing student Andrea Solano recognized for her dedication to the profession

*The following column was written by Albuquerque Journal columnist Joline Gutierrez Krueger. The column is on 2004 Luna Community College RN graduate Andrea Solano. It is being re-printed with permission from The Albuquerque Journal. The original headline was titled **Angel Found at UNMH**. Gutierrez Krueger writes a regular column designated as UpFront.*

By Joline Gutierrez Krueger

Cesar Quesada knows nurses. Lots of them. With 11 years of frequent hospital visits, 17 surgeries and eight rounds of different chemotherapy treatments since he was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer at age 6, you might expect Quesada to be something of a nurse aficionado.

Most are nice enough, he says, though, yes, he’s also known a few whose bedside manner was a bit stiff.

And then there is Andrea Solano.

So what do you say about a nurse who has become so much more than the person who takes vitals and brings medications? What do you say about someone who has become both caregiver and cruise director, comedian, party planner, counselor, confidante, nag, mother, sister, friend?

What do you say about a woman who, despite doctors who shake their heads, shrug their shoulders and admit they don’t know what else to do, can still convince you that you will pull through. You will live.

“She gives me hope,” says Quesada, 17. “That’s no small thing.”

What do you say? All of that. You write it down. You share your words, your thoughts.

Quesada did that, composing an essay about Solano titled “Not Just a Nurse, But Also an Angel.”

Because of that essay, Solano, who works at the University of New Mexico Hospital’s pediatric clinic in Albuquerque, is one of three finalists for the national 2012 Extraordinary Healer Award for Oncology Nursing.

The contest — sponsored by Cure magazine, Amgen Oncology and Breakaway from Cancer — invites cancer patients and their families to nominate their favorite oncology nurse by writing an essay about that nurse’s compassion, helpfulness and expertise. Quesada, a junior at Valley High School, is the youngest writer to have his essay chosen for the final round, an award spokesman said.

The winning nurse, who will receive an all-expense-paid spa trip for two, will be announced Thursday at the Oncology Nursing Society’s 37th Annual Congress in New Orleans.

To read the full article, see Monday’s Luna Light