

The Luna Light



Volume 2, Issue 17

May 18, 2012

“The People’s College”

Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America

LCC networking a success in Raton

Healthcare Career Pathways held a program success reception earlier this month at the Raton High School Media Center. Students were recognized for their completion of the two-year program and all partners were presented with plaques and/or certificates.

Luna Community College partnered with the Raton Public Schools, Miners’ Colfax Medical Center, and New Mexico Highlands University in 2010 to work on this two-year healthcare program initiative. The pathway program provided high school juniors and seniors with hands-on experience. The initiative was designed for students to have a seamless transition from high school into a higher education institution with completion of many core courses, which are required within healthcare degree programs in college.

A major component of the pathways was to instruct students on how to deliver quality healthcare and the importance of performance improvement functions in all aspects of healthcare. The program had an emphasis on customer service skills and the delivery of quality healthcare.

A structured curriculum consisted of both instructional and practical skills, which has prepared them to continue their educational efforts in the healthcare field. Students that completed this healthcare pathway program now have the skills and abilities to test to become a certified nursing assistant and will either become employed in the healthcare area or continue in their studies of healthcare professions such as a licensed practical nurse, registered nurse or other allied healthcare positions.

The goal of the initiative was to recruit and retain individuals in the healthcare field in Colfax County. The six primary communities in Colfax County all have healthcare professional shortages. Raton, which is the largest of the six communities, has a community hospital, Long Term Care facility, family practice associates, internal medicine, ob/gyn and general surgery services available.

Luna Community College delivered the online curriculum. Miners’ Colfax Medical Center providing the clinical aspect of the two-year program where students received hands-on experience. This allowed students to work side-by-side with a mentoring healthcare team. The program started with 15 students and ended with 13. We are very proud of these students!



Meridee Walters from Quality New Mexico spoke to about 40 Luna Community College employees on Thursday. Quality New Mexico is an organization that helps colleges integrate framework of principals, approach and tools that help with results.

LCC employees meet with NEA

Several Luna Community College employees met with Pat Chavez from the National Education Association of New Mexico to explore union benefits.

Chavez explained that if Luna Community College comes on board with an employee union it would join New Mexico Highlands University, West Las Vegas Schools, and Las Vegas City Schools. These three entities have long been unionized, according to Chavez.

LCC helps out community

Luna Community College’s Tax Help Coordinator Janice Encinias along with her class served 398 clients this year. The estimated preparation fees saved their clients \$17,910.

The total amount of refunds received is at \$96,005.