

The Luna Light



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

Volume 4 Issue 25

Special Edition—July 2, 2011

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Happy birthday America!

*By Jesse Gallegos
A Different
Perspective*

Most Americans have their favorite sports teams. Therefore, we are all partial to certain colors. For instance, if you are a Green Bay Packers fan, you probably like green. If your team is the Oakland Raiders you like black. If the team you follow the most is the L.A. Lakers than you probably like purple.

But there are three special colors that bring us together whether we are Dallas, Denver or Pittsburgh fans—they are the colors red, white and blue—the colors of America.

As we are fortunate to celebrate another Fourth of July, we must not forget what these three precious colors mean to us.

I'll never forget a speech I heard while attending Boys' State at New Mexico Tech back in 1985. I've heard hundreds of speeches in my life, but this one stands out as one of the best. One of the candidates for governor of Boys' State talked about what the colors of the flag meant to him. It went something like this.

We can never forget the red that covers the flag. It signifies all the blood that was shed for America to keep its freedom. The white on the flag signifies the innocence and the blue signifies the peace that is experienced.

Strong words for a 17-year old.

At times I think many of us take America for granted. Many of us are born into liberty and do very little to keep this secured. Although at times, we are discouraged with decisions this country makes we can never forget that America is a nation committed to jus-

Continued on next page



These two photos of The Statue of Liberty and the American Flag symbolize the United States of America. Among the meanings are freedom of oppression, the ideals of justice and the commitment to persevere in the face of adversity. They are also symbols of hope and the belief that truth shall prevail.





Kaitlyn Gross recently signed a national letter of intent to play softball for LCC. Gross, a centerfielder from Los Lunas High, is pictured here with her parents Yvonne and Danny Gross. Also photographed is her coach Paul Ciere-mans and LCC Coach Meredith Gilpin.

Photo provided by Tiffini Porter-Valencia County News Bulletin.

America...

Continued from previous page
tice and perseverance.

The significance of colors and symbolism is left up to the imagination. I don't believe there is anything official referring to our colors. But imagine living in a nation that doesn't believe in core values.

I can hear the naysayers that say that America has lost its personality and ideals. I tend to disagree. I personally am proud to be American. I know we are not perfect, but I could never see myself living anywhere else.

Let's all be grateful for what we have, rather than what we don't have.

We can still do a lot in America. There is hope for a better tomorrow.

Maybe some day soon, we can all share in peace across the world and America can lead the way.

The United States is a great nation.

I want to say happy birthday to America and thank everyone that has allowed us to maintain our freedom.

Jesse's quick hits

Remember to smile a few times a day. I hope this helps—Jesse

Where do cats shop?

In cat-alog

What score did the cat get on his math test?

Purr-fect

Why was the dog in lots of fights?

He was a Boxer.

What do you get when you cross a dog and an aardvark?

An arf-bark.

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Luna Community College Director of Allied Health Sciences Conni Reichert took part in the Nurse Camp for local high school juniors and seniors that took place during the week of June 13-16 sponsored by New Mexico Highlands University. The LCC Allied Health Department recently was given a green light to proceed with the national accreditation process by receiving a unanimous vote on recommendation for accreditation by a national panel of 15 evaluators. The final step to national accreditation comes in July with the granting or denying of accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission Board. LCC will be notified by mail of the outcome of that final step.



Why all the rules at Luna Community College?

By Donna Flores-Medina
Vice-President of Finance
& Administration

Why all the rules, hoops, red tape and paperwork for a meeting I have to go to on Luna Community College business in Albuquerque? Glad you asked, actually the State of New Mexico's Legislative Finance Committee is asking the same question and more of all state higher education institutions.

An **Albuquerque Journal** article prompted recent questions. Those questions below are followed by LCC submitted response:

1. Does the institution have written **Per Diem** policies for officers and employees?

LCC: Yes. Training is provided annually and the policies were disseminated via an *every-one* e-mail.

2. If **Actual** expenses are reimbursed, do institutional policies require receipts for lodg-

ing and meals and are the limits for meals...\$30 for in-state travel? \$45 for out-of-state travel?

LCC: Yes.

3.If **Per Diem** is paid instead of reimbursing **Actual** expenses, do the institutional policies differ from state law's limit of mileage plus :\$85/day maximum for in-state travel? \$135/day maximum (special cities)? \$ 115/ maximum for out-of-state travel? \$ 215/ maximum for out-of-state travel (special cities)?

LCC: No. LCC does not differ, policy limits are the same as the State's.

4. Does the institution "limit reimbursement for **Per Diem** and mileage beyond \$1,500 per year until an individual provides an itemized statement regarding all places to which the person traveled and the public purpose served. (see 10-8-5-1 NMSA 1978")?

LCC: Because not all travel is anticipated or perhaps not know at the beginning of the

fiscal year, LCC requires ALL travelers to provide an itemized statement regarding all places to which the person intends to travel and the public purpose served". This is accomplished with the pre and post activity forms whether the traveler is to be reimbursed for **Actuals** or **Per Diem**

LCC Responsibility for Accountability

Not only are we accountable to the State's lawmakers, LCC is accountable to taxpayers, granting agencies, other state agencies, our auditors and others. It was with confidence LCC was able to answer the questions raised knowing we have tight and strict policies in line with requirements.

Did you see a recent local TV news story about public funded travel cost reimbursement where the investigator questioned why a \$5 cup of Starbucks coffee would be reimbursed?

So why the seemingly cumbersome process?..... It's the law.



Luna Community College Assistant Softball Coach Marcos Aragon is a 1996 graduate of West Las Vegas. Aragon earned his degree in sports performance from LCC this past May. Aragon assisted the LCC baseball team for three years before taking on the softball assistant's job this past season.

Luna Community College employee Urszula Abeyta (left) pitches in to help LCC employee Cathy Gonzales with the week's batch of bills to be paid. While the invoices come in all year long, year-end close has its unique challenges. Directors are informed each year of the last day to submit purchase requests and this year it was May 18. The task of obtaining all documents required before a payment is made is HUGE at year end.

Cathy works extra hard, with a pleasant flair to tie up all loose ends. It becomes a family task as everyone in the fiscal office comes together to lend a hand so the "close out" gets done in a timely manner.

A big thank you goes out to all departments who submitted their requests by the deadline and were responsive to Cathy's requests for missing documents. It is the cooperation and advanced planning of all that makes this year-end process smoother.



ON AIR



Luna Community College is offering a noncredit course called "GETTING PAID TO TALK: INTRODUCTION TO VOICE OVERS".

Students will learn the basics of recording voice-overs for TV and radio commercials, cartoons, audio book, documentaries, the Internet and more. Attendees will also have the opportunity to record a mock commercial under the direction of a *VoiceCoaches* producer.

JULY 12, 2011 Tuesday 6:30-9:00pm
LCC Main Campus, LRC Lecture Hall
\$20 (\$10 for high school or college students)

For more information, call LCC
Community Education at 505-454-
5311, or 800-588-7232, ext. 1204



Luna CC students enjoy experience at National SkillsUSA competition

The 28 hour roundtrip that it took Luna Community College students and their advisors to travel to Kansas City and back was well worth it.

The experience gained was well worth the exhausting trip.

"SkillsUSA is the best kept secret in the world," said LCC student Crystal Rae Martinez. "Skills has so much to offer. It was an experience no one can ever take from me. It was nice to meet so many people from other states."

Martinez and her model Roxanne Garcia earned 11th place in the nail care competition. Marcia Garcia also attended the event as an observer.

"There are no words for it," said Marcia Garcia. "It was just awesome."

Conni Ortiz went as an advisor. Ortiz is an instructor in the cosmetology department.

"Luna does well considering that we don't have the resources other colleges have in bigger cities. We look good out there. Our students do well with what they have. Our students are not intimidated," said Ortiz.

LCC students Lawrence Gomez and Earl Varela finished 14th and 19th respectively in collision repair and auto refinishing.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Varela. "I still don't get the judging, but I would recommend this competition for everyone.



Representing Luna Community College at the National SkillsUSA competition in Kansas City were: Gary Gamertsfelder, Marcia Garcia, Earl Varela, Gilbert "Guba" Martinez, Conni Ortiz, Roxanne Garcia and Lawrence Gomez. Not pictured are Crystal Rae Martinez and Jaime Ulibarri.

I know what it's all about now."

Varela owns his own business Auto and More and is currently constructing a new location at the 8th St. extension.

"Our students did awesome," said LCC Auto Collision Instructor Gilbert "Guba" Martinez. "They describe the true meaning of teamwork. In a tough competition they shined. In my mind we won the gold and silver because of the effort."

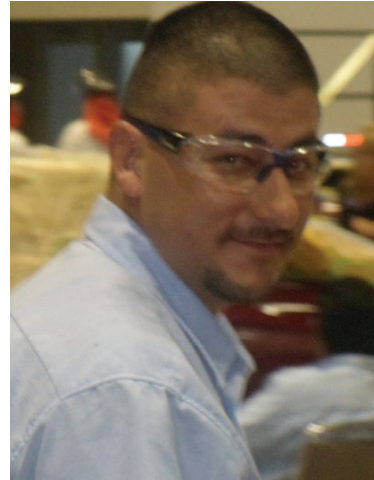
LCC student Gary Gamertsfelder was elected by New Mexico SkillsUSA as the post-secondary state president. Gamertsfelder will lead the coordination effort in the 2012 New Mexico SkillsUSA Conference.

"I got to Kansas City a few days before my classmates did and I was so happy when my Luna family got there," said Gamertsfelder. "I must have given 1,000 people a hug. There is 1,300 people in my chapter and if I can support all these people I will. I want to point people in the right direction."

LCC student Phillip "Jaime" Ulibarri also attended the event as an observer.

The LCC SkillsUSA Organization will be open for new membership starting in the fall semester. Anyone interested in participating in the SkillsUSA Program can contact Anthony Baca, SkillsUSA Advisor and SkillsUSA Board Member at 454-2591 or 429-0425.





LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Campos says LCC will continue to focus on entire service area

The following is the last in a four-part exclusive interview with Luna Community College President Dr. Pete Campos. Dr. Campos is completing his third year of a five-year contract.

Are dormitories still a possibility for Luna Community College?

Yes. We have researched this issue, met with individuals who have financed and built other dormitories and still have plans to build. We have been advised that a feasibility study should be conducted, a revenue stream identified and a location selected to develop a construction and operation cost analysis. The need for a student housing complex is evident for the following reasons: A] more of our students are coming from other communities to study and play either baseball or softball; B] many of our students from other communities within our service area find it difficult and costly to commute back and forth; C] many of our students are single parents and require childcare and housing; D] overall student enrollment is increasing; and, E] on campus housing would attract more students (local and from other communities) because of our quality and affordable educational offerings. The major drawback to students who need housing is the cost to them, even when they have financial aid and parental support. Concerns have been raised that housing is already available to Luna Community College students at New Mexico Highlands University and there are many apartments available within the community to rent. Students are already taking advantage of the housing and meal plans offered at NMHU and many students are renting apartments in town. However, students have said, it's difficult for them to be going back and forth from their residence to attend classes on campus and they would rather have dormitories that are more convenient (within walking distance) to their classes.

During your presidency, Luna Community College has added many programs. Are their plans to add more?

Yes. Vocational Education (manufacturing, fabricating and assembly) and Health Care are two areas of study that will continue to see growth. We are currently researching the need to expand particularly in these areas. We will be announcing additional program expansions during the 2011-2012 school year. This is also an appropriate place to reiterate that our programs of study are being constantly reviewed and

changes are being made as needed and required to align curriculum, strengthen learning in the classroom and have students complete classes and degree or certificate programs with the objective that they really understand the material taught.

The new media center is months away from finishing phase one. Idealistically, what is the best case scenario for the college?

The first phase of the mass communications building is slated for completion in October, 2011. I have faith the funds for phase II will be forthcoming soon. While I cannot give a specific date, we will be funded and the mass communications center will be state-of-the-art and the classroom space will be used beginning with the 2011-2012

“Our service area has lost significant population. When I began in this position three years ago, I knew of the economic and population downturn of our service area, the need to bring policy and operations current according to national and state standards and the expectations the people of our service area had to improve the educational offerings to our youth and adult learners. We must do everything possible to instill HOPE and CONFIDENCE within the families of our service area and to those from other communities who decide to take classes with us either on-line or on-campus,”—Dr. Pete Campos, LCC President

spring semester. We have been so close to securing large funding for the upgrading of our trades area and other needed projects throughout our service area. Unfortunately, with a turbulent and uncertain economy funding opportunities have been volatile. Despite the tough conditions we have faced, LCC has been unmatched in meeting our goals and objectives across the board from efficient operations to program development to seeking and securing first-time accreditation or reaccreditation for many of our institutions programs.

What are your plans for our satellites in Springer and Santa Rosa? How about the Mora Site? The service area?

Our service area has lost significant population. When I began in this position three years ago, I knew of the economic and population downturn of our service area, the need to bring policy and operations current according to national and state standards and the expectations the people of our service area had to improve the educational offerings to our youth and adult learners. We must do everything possible to instill HOPE and CONFIDENCE within the families of our service area and to those from other communities who decide to take classes with us either on-line or on-campus. I – always with the help of our Luna Family – intend to keep educational offerings in the communities you mentioned. We are the catalyst in many of these communities and our support must continue to be strong so students from Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer High Schools will have other learning opportunities to prepare them for a job at home, higher education or to enter the military. LCC has a long record of providing a good education to many students who have done well and become leaders in their own right.

Continued on next page

Dr. Campos interview...

Continued from previous page
What are Luna Community College's biggest challenges over the next couple of years?

We have strengthened our mission, stepped up our pace and are positioned to become recognized as a premier community college. We've provided the residence of our service area with a quality institution of which they can be proud. The challenges are going to be: 1] to stabilize and sustain the operations and academic level we have achieved; 2] to keep students and employees motivated and on-board for the long haul; and, 3] when the economy improves to be prepared to grow Luna Community College and keep pace with the global demands on higher education. We owe it to our families to keep in tune with the fast changing broad field of education and condition or prepare them to handle those changes.

The public is fully aware that you have been a state senator since 1991. How has this experience helped you apply this to access better student services?

I am sixth in seniority, I have served on many senate committees, I am on the senate and legislative finance committees, I have traveled across the country to participate in lengthy fellowships that have helped me hone my policy making skills and most importantly, I have listened to constituents and helped to develop and keep jobs, projects and programs in our area. I have always involved students at all levels, helped them gain employment and access to programs within their areas of interest, encouraged them to give life their best and supported them throughout their careers as business leaders, educators, technicians, and the list goes on. What I learn - I pass on to others. Serving students has been my life's work. It's up to us to continue to lend a help-

ing hand to all students so their careers will be meaningful.

Is there a message you would like to give to students, staff, faculty and administration?

I will continue to give my best so Luna Community College will be recognized for its quality education. I respect and care for each of you. If I have ever hurt you, please accept my deepest apologies. I am confident that by working together, educating students and supporting each other as co-workers we can and will achieve much. I am driven by the needs of students and have spent my life focused on those needs. If we prepare our students to do well, they will and our lives - as employees - will be made better as well. *It's the cycle of life and we are in the position to do our part!*



SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 27, 2011
Pendaries Golf Course

THE LCC FOUNDATION Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

(Over \$50,000 raised for Title V in 2010)

For sponsor or registration request please contact:

Sarah Flores, Executive Director
phone) (505) 454-5367
email) sflores@luna.edu

Ernesto Salazar, Co-Chairman
phone) (505) 920-3696,
email) ernesto@fnblv.com

Phil J. Wolff, Co-Chairman
phone) (505) 425-2080
email) philw@northerninsurance.com

You can also visit our website:
www.luna.edu/foundation or Facebook us!
Registration Brochure to follow.



Foundation

Journeyman carpentry graduates from Luna CC

The nationally-accredited and certified Building Technologies Program established at Luna Community College in 2009 is proud to announce that seven carpentry apprentices are now recognized by the State of New Mexico and nationally, as journeyman carpenters. These apprentices were trained at Luna Community College, and all seven of them recently completed the requirements specific to the journeyman-assessment/certification portion of the program currently being offered at LCC. In addition, LCC recently added another journeyman certification program, in concrete finishing.

Franken Construction and their new journeyman carpenters are commended for their accomplishments. It has been quite an ongoing challenge to accommodate the rural New Mexico members' varying apprenticeship needs. The employer support is critical to the success of this formula of certified apprenticeship success to continue to work.

These seven individuals are the first of Las Vegas' "home grown" journeyman carpenters generated through Luna Community College, in collaboration with The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) and the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER).

The building technologies program offered at LCC is designed to appeal to and accommodate a diverse group of students, including professionals and non-traditional students, as well as students already employed as part of the local workforce. The building technologies program looks forward to continuing success of our nationally accredited programs, all being offered here at LCC, a nationally accredited training and education facility.

For more information regarding these programs currently available at LCC, contact Joseph Montoya at 505-454-2586.



Luna Community College students participating in the Future Leaders Summer Program recently toured Intel Corporation in Rio Rancho. Pictured with the students is Mr. Jose Coffie, who has for many years provided Luna Community College with excellent tours of the Intel facility and presentations about Intel Corporation.

The Future Leaders Program, formerly known as the Tech Prep Summer Program, is designed to enhance educational opportunities for high school students and graduating seniors in preparing for math, science and technical careers. The program allows students to earn college credit toward an Associate Degree and/or Baccalaureate Degree. In addition to strengthening math, science and technology skills, the program helps students learn to navigate the college system and provides students with career development. Major components of the program are tours to major technology industries and the national science laboratories with on-site presentations.



The next
Luna Light will
be published on
Monday, July 11.
Thank you.

News from the Luna CC Physical Plant

by **Ron Gonzales**

First I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy 4th of July Holiday. Also I would like to congratulate the retiree's on a job well done and wish them the best on their new endeavors.

As many of you on campus have seen the physical plant staff continues to beautify the buildings as well as the grounds here on the main campus and also address maintenance needs at the satellites. Although we have all experienced budget cuts, the physical plant staff has been able to keep up with building maintenance needs. My hat goes of to all the physical plant staff in the office and in the field.

Also I would like to congratulate Mr. Fred Carrillo on his retirement from the security department and wish him well. With this retirement come a few changes in the department with the most notable on being that Mr. Andrew Duran life safety coordinator will also be assuming the duties of lead security. Andrew is already making some changes that will be implemented in the next few months. Just as a reminder to all faculty and staff we do have some one way roads on campus and we are asking you to please adhere to these. It makes it

difficult to enforce this with students if staff does not.

The plant is also in the process of submitting our 5-year Capital Outlay Plan to HED and also our funding needs. This year our top projects that will be submitted will be the Vocational Buildings renovation and the Phase 2 for the Media Education Center. Although these will be our top two requests we are identifying our needs in Santa Rosa, Springer, Mora as well as the main campus to better serve our students. The LCC Facility Committee continues their commitment to identify needs as well as explore funding possibilities for the institutions needs with regards to capital outlay to better serve our students.

With regards to construction of the Media Education Center, the contractor continues to move forward on the completion of the project currently the project is approximately 75 percent complete with a push to complete it by October. This will be a big addition to Luna Community College to serve the needs of our students.

Also I would like to thank the building trades instructors and students for some of the projects that they have taken on here at the main campus. This shows that our students also take pride in our institution.

Happy 4th of July and Stay Safe!!!!

Celebrating Independence Day through education

By **Lawrence Quintana**
Human Resource Director

Citizens of the United States are able to express their patriotism during Independence Day by displaying a U.S. flag in front of their home, or walk around the Las Vegas Plaza during the 4th of July and celebrate being an American with their families and friends.

We all serve our country when we recognize how lucky we are to be citizens of the United States of America and what freedoms we have in this country. Many of our service men and women are protecting the freedoms we have and we should always be thankful.

Seeking an education is another way citizens can serve their country. Obtaining an education in a vocational or academic field helps students strengthen themselves and the country they live in. I wish everyone a safe and fun 4th of July.

Happy Independence Day.



The Luna Community College Media Education Center is approximately 75 percent complete with a push to complete it by October. This will be a big addition to Luna Community College to serve the needs of our students.

LCC MEAL CARD
\$50

Rough Rider Grill

Buy it at the Fiscal Office Today!

LCC:
"The
People's
College"



Title V Newsletter

JUNE 2011

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 7

Luna Community College's Title V Mission:

"Developing a comprehensive online learning network for rural, time and place-bound students."

Good Luck, Best Wishes - We Will Miss You!

By Lorraine Martinez

As the Title V grant is getting closer to the end, two Title V staff members have been hired in another capacity at Luna Community College. John Tiernan has been hired as the Institutional Research Director 50 percent of the time and will remain with Title V 50 percent until the Title V grant ends in 2012. John will continue to hold his position as the Online Student Services Developer for Title V until the end. His contribution to Title V at Luna Community College is developing online registration, online financial aid, online payment, online remote desktop services, PLATO implementation and the creation of the Pathways website. These applications have been a tremendous asset for the students at Luna Community College. John's commitment and dedication has proven to be invaluable.



John Tiernan

Luna Community College truly has two exceptional employees who will persevere in whatever they are required to do. They are here for the students that they serve and will do what it takes to help them succeed in all of their endeavors. Their outstanding skills are needed elsewhere. I will not say good-bye, but "buena suerte".

Michelle Bencomo, Title V Administrative Assistant, has accepted a job at Luna Community College with the Financial Aid Department. Michelle will start her new position in July. Michelle's contributions to Title V have been an asset to the program with her outstanding work ethics, personable traits and commitment to her job responsibilities, and finally, the great employee that she is.



Michelle Bencomo

Endowment Information

Title V will contribute a \$55,000 endowment to the Luna Community College Foundation for Year 4 of the Title V grant. This money will be used towards student scholarships.

The annual Scholarship Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, August 27, 2011 at the Pendaries Golf Course.

Title V Staff

Lorraine Martinez, Project Director
Michelle Bencomo, Administrative Assistant
Larry Paiz, Instructional Designer
John Tiernan, Online Student Services Developer
Rick Roybal, Distance Education Technician



Point-To-Ponder

"A memory lasts forever never does it die. True friends stay together and never say goodbye."

— Unknown