

# The Luna Light



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

Visit us at  
[www.luna.edu](http://www.luna.edu)

Volume 5 Issue 42

October 22-October 28, 2012

## “Get your socks scared off” Haunted house, costume contest planned



Here is a photo of last year’s costume contest winners.

The 2012-13 Luna Community College SkillsUSA Clubs are combining efforts to host Halloween activities.

From Friday, Oct. 26 through Sunday, Oct. 28, they will be having a “Haunted House” at the LCC Automotive Technologies Building. Doors will open from 6 p.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

The cost of admission will be \$5 per adult and \$2 per child. All proceeds will go to the following LCC SkillsUSA Clubs: dental assisting, auto technology, welding and building trades.

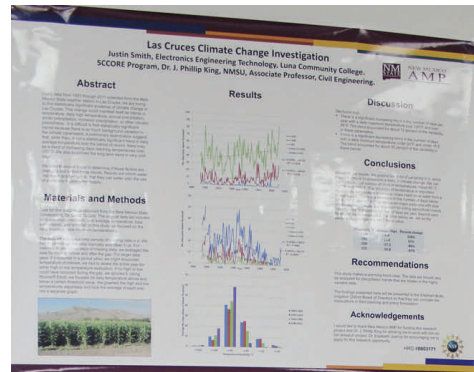
A Halloween costume contest is set from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 31 at the Rough Rider Grill. There is no admission fee for this event.

“We want people to come out and support our SkillsUSA Clubs and provide activities for Luna and the community,” said LCC SkillsUSA Automotive Technology Club President Chris Castellano. “It will be a new twist on haunted houses.”

Castellano said that the haunted house will have an industrial theme.

“We started planning on this about a month ago,” said Castellano. “A lot of effort has been put into this. Come and get your socks scared off. Everyone will be in for big surprises.”

Continued on page 12



The 2012 Annual New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP) Statewide Student Research Conference was held at the beginning of October on the campus of New Mexico State in Las Cruces. Faculty and students from every college and university in New Mexico, as well as a group from New York, attended.

Dr. Elizabeth Juarros (right) presented a workshop and two lectures there and participated in the conference with five students from the SMET Department at LCC. In attendance from LCC were Eddy Maes (Science), Patricia Natewa (Pre-Engineering), Roberto Santana (Pre-Engineering), Rachel Ridgeway (Science), and Justin Smith (Electronics Engineering Tech). Rachel Ridgeway and Justin Smith presented posters about their summer research projects.

Out of a large, competitive pool of student researchers, LCC's Rachel Ridgeway (left) won third prize for her poster presentation, entitled “Surfactant Free Emulsion”. She was honored at the conference with an award and recognition from the Dean of Engineering at NMSU.

## Congratulations!

# General Agriculture


## Associate of Applied Science degree

The Associate of Applied Science degree in General Agriculture is an introductory program designed for individuals seeking employment opportunities in the agriculture industry or for transferability to a university. The curriculum includes instruction in technology principles and agricultural operations. Since the program offers students a choice of general education core

and electives, it is extremely important for the student to use care in course selection. If the primary goal is to transfer, the student must learn in advance of the particular requirements of the intended school or university. If the primary goal involves occupational skills or personal growth, the student must consult with an LCC advisor before selecting courses.

### Degree Requirements - Minimum of 61 Credit Hours

<b>General Education Core</b>	<b>(33 hours)</b>
<b>Area I. Communications</b>	<b>(9 hours)</b>
<a href="#">ENG111</a> Freshman Composition I	3 credits
<a href="#">ENG115</a> Freshman Composition II	3 credits
<a href="#">SPCH111</a> Public Speaking-or-	3 credits
<a href="#">SPCH112</a> Interpersonal Communication	3 credits
<b>Area II. Mathematics</b>	<b>(4 hours)</b>
<a href="#">MATH116</a> Intermediate Algebra	4 credits
<b>Area III. Laboratory Science-or-</b>	
<b>Area IV. Social and Behavioral Sciences-or-</b>	
<b>Area V. Humanities and Fine Arts</b>	<b>(20 hours)</b>
<b>Program Requirements</b>	<b>(16 hours)</b>
<a href="#">AG105</a> Introduction to Animal Science	3 credits
<a href="#">AG110</a> Introduction to Agriculture Economics and Business	3 credits
<a href="#">AG205</a> Agriculture Management Principles	3 credits
<a href="#">AG250</a> Agriculture Internship	4 credits
<a href="#">AG260</a> Research Methods in General Agriculture	3 credits
<b>Related Studies</b>	<b>(3 hours)</b>
<a href="#">CSA150</a> Computer Fundamentals	3 credits
<b>Approved Electives</b>	<b>(9 hours)</b>
<a href="#">AG115</a> Introduction to Aquaculture	4 credits
<a href="#">BIO127</a> General Botany	4 credits
<a href="#">BIO142</a> General Zoology	4 credits
<a href="#">EQU105</a> Equine Behavioral Practices	3 credits
<a href="#">EQU120</a> Equine Health and Nutrition	3 credits
<a href="#">EQU140</a> Equine Anatomy and Physiology I	4 credits
<a href="#">EQU150</a> Introduction to Horseshoeing and Blacksmithing	3 credits
<a href="#">EQU155</a> Advanced Horseshoeing and Blacksmithing	3 credits
<a href="#">EQU210</a> Equine Genetics	3 credits
<a href="#">HRTC105</a> Garden Maintenance & Design	3 credits
<a href="#">HRTC122</a> Plant Propagation	3 credits
<a href="#">HRTC131</a> Soil Management	3 credits
<a href="#">SMET101</a> Intro to Science, Math, & Engineering Technology	3 credits





**New Mexico Highlands University  
Cheer & Dance Spirit Squad**


We will be selling Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.  
We will be taking orders October 8<sup>th</sup> - 2012 - October 25, 2012  
Delivered date will be October 29, 2012  
Glazed for \$9.00 per a dozen  
Chocolate for \$10.00 per a dozen  
If you would like to place an order then  
Please contact one of the NMHU Cheer & Dance Spirit Squad Members  
Or you can call  
Destiny (505)795-3295,  
Julyssa

[www.facebook.com/hu.cheerleaders](http://www.facebook.com/hu.cheerleaders)

Last Day to Order is October 25, 2012 by noon  
Please Pay when you order and type of payment Cash Only.  
Sorry no Checks.



Thank You for Supporting:  
NMHU Cheer & Dance Spirit Squad




NMSBDC is now collaborating with The Loan Fund to help entrepreneurs find funding. If you are interested please call to set an appointment with one of our business advisors 800-588-7232 x1759 or 505-454-2582

Sincerely,  
**Theresa Romero**  
Administrative Assistant  
Small Business Development Center  
at Luna Community College  
366 Luna Drive  
Las Vegas, NM 87701  
(505) 454-2582 or (800) 588-7232 ext. 1759  
[www.nmsbdc.org/lasvegas](http://www.nmsbdc.org/lasvegas)



**State Auditor Hector Balderas (far left) was one of several panelists that participated at Luna Community College's Pathways to Success Accelerate Fall Mixer on Friday morning. Students from throughout the state had the opportunity to network with several individuals in an effort to help them succeed in educational and career goals. Pictured with Balderas in the bottom photo is LCC student Steven Hoffman. In the middle photo are some of the panelists (l-r) Balderas, Kim Shanahan, executive officer at Santa Fe Area Home Builders Association; Dr. Gil Gallegos, assistant professor of computer science and engineering at Highlands University; Vangie Trujillo, economic development program manager at Los Alamos National Labs Program's Office and Fatima Pino, an accelerate student. In the top photo, Balderas talks with UNM-Taos student Valerie Fresquez.**

# Raton High Homecoming Parade



**LCC:**  
"The People's College"



LCC:  
"The  
People's  
College"



Luna CC

Photos by Louise Portillos

Luna Community College:  
“The People’s College”



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"The People's College"

# A legend leaving Luna

## Deborah Varela retiring from LCC after 25 years of service

*The following is an interview with Deborah Varela who is retiring after 25 years with Luna Community College.*

### **When did you begin working at Luna Community College?**

I began working at LCC in 1987 – 25 years ago.

### **What jobs have you held while at LCC?**

I was hired in 1987 when Luna Community College was classified as a Vocational/Technical Institution. I have worked for several departments at the college: 1987-1989 (Secretary I); Registrars/Admissions Department, Allied Health Department (Medical Lab and Dental Assistant) and Administration; 1989-2003 (Secretary II Administrative Assistant) Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and 2003-2012 (Administrative Assistant and Office Manager) Physical Plant/Security Department

### **Why are you retiring this year?**

I have completed 25 years of working for LCC. I feel I have contributed to LCC and its mission and feel excited and ready to pursue a new chapter in my life. My time and turn has arrived.

### **What are your best memories of LCC?**

There are many memories and it's hard to specify one. I remember the days when we would have social gatherings for everyone (Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc.). We would get together during the Christmas season and exchange ornaments and share a meal together. This helped to improve moral and brought us closer together.

### **What are you not going to miss about LCC?**

I live in Pecos, New Mexico and commute to LCC every day. I will definitely not miss the commute especially during the winter months. I have traveled 100 miles per day for over 10 years.

### **What would you like people to remember you by?**

I have always taken my job very serious and take pride in my work. I possess good work



**Deborah Varela says that everyone is important to the mission of the college.**

ethics and have always taken responsibility for my job duties. I feel I have been dedicated, helpful, professional, respectful, hardworking, and mainly provided support/guidance to the departments I've served.

### **Is there any advice you would like to give to students, faculty, staff or administration?**

Treat each other with respect and dignity. Communicate with one another and value the opinions of others. Everyone is important to the mission of the college, its success and growth. Join together and participate for the betterment of the college.

### **What is there about LCC that you would never want to see changed.**

I love the location of LCC (Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range overlooking Las Vegas), its beautiful scenery and experiencing the changes

of the seasons (winter, spring, summer and fall). Continue to offer community education courses in various areas for those individuals who want to learn a new skill, enhance their knowledge, or acquire a new hobby, etc. Continue to offer affordable tuition and programs to students to continue their education.

### **What one thing would you like to see changed about LCC?**

I believe more recognition and appreciation should be given to those employees who have dedicated many years of service to LCC. Many professional and knowledgeable individuals have left LCC without being recognized for their contributions to the college or without being compensated accordingly.

### **What do you want to do now that you retire?**

I plan to spend more time with my family including my grandchildren. I want to travel and enjoy the great outdoors more. I have several hobbies I plan to get back to and mainly live life. I look forward to new challenges and experiences.

### **From a scale of 1-10, 10 being the highest, how much will you miss LCC?**

#### **Why?**

This is difficult to rate; I have worked here for 25 years and have made many friends along the way. There is a lot I will take with me and I am grateful for the opportunities and friendships I have made at LCC.

### **How important is LCC to northeastern New Mexico?**

I feel strongly about education. I was a single mother raising two young boys when I starting attending LCC as a student back in 1985. LCC has been a big part of my life. I received my education and then began my career with LCC and look at me now retiring!!! Good Luck to everyone at LCC and to you students keep reaching for the stars and always take your education serious!



# Luna CC Board of Trustees meet in Pojoaque

The Luna Community College Board of Trustees met at Buffalo Thunder in Pojoaque on Friday evening and Saturday in a special board meeting. Among items discussed were the performance evaluation of LCC President Dr. Pete Campos and a review of the current employee organizational structure. The performance evaluation, a personnel matter, on Dr. Campos was done in executive session as permitted by the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.

“This was an opportunity for the trustees to meet in an area where there were no day-to-day distractions,” said LCC Public Information Coordinator Jesse Gallegos. “It has been Luna Community College’s practice to meet in a designated location periodically to discuss important college matters.”

Dr. Campos is in his last year of an original five-year contract signed in 2008.

Over the last few years, the trustees have met in a board room at



**Luna Community College Board of Trustees hold a meeting in Pojoaque on Saturday. Pictured (l-r): LCC lawyer Tony Ortiz, LCC President Dr. Pete Campos, Executive Office Manager Maria Paiz, member Levi Alcon, member David Gutierrez, chair Jerry Maestas, vice-chair Tony Valdez, member Ambrose Castellano, secretary Abelino Montoya Jr. and member Frankie Tenorio.**

Alta Vista Hospital and at the college’s attorney of record office in Santa Fe. It has been at least over a year that the trustees last met outside the main campus, at one of their satellites in Springer and Santa Rosa or at its Mora Site.

“The board of trustees are very much aware of the costs associated with such meetings and do their best through the administration to keep expenditures to a minimum,” said Gallegos.

The cost for this off-site meeting is \$2,106.76. The requirements for a special board of trustees meeting was met according to the New Mexico

Open Meetings Act.

“The issues were discussed extensively,” said Gallegos. “The Luna Community College Board of Trustees has made every effort to minimize executive sessions. They have done a good job making information at Luna Community College transparent.”

## Weekly Activities

### Monday, October 22, 2012

8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. *Weight Training (Vo-Ag. Bldg.)*

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. *DWI Class (General Studies/Room 102B)*

### Tuesday, October 23, 2012

8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. *Line Dancing (Wellness Center)*

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. *Public Speaking Class (LRC/Lecture Hall)*

### Wednesday, October 24, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. *Med Administering/Mentally Challenged (LRC/Lecture Hall) Sponsored By: New Pathways*

### Thursday, October 25, 2012

8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. *Line Dancing (Wellness Center)*

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. *Public Speaking Class (LRC/Lecture Hall)*

### Friday, October 26, 2012

8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. *Weight Training (Vo-Ag. Bldg.)*

9:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. *Public Speaking Class (LRC/Lecture Hall)*

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. *Restaurant Experience (CUL 237) Lab (IPC/Cafe)*

6:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. *LCC Haunted House (Auto Shop/Body Shop)*

### Saturday, October 27, 2012

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. *C.N.A. Testing (Allied Hlth/Nrsg.Lab#3, CompLab#7, MO-11)*

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Driver Education Course (General Studies/Room 101)*

6:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. *LCC Haunted House (Auto Shop/Body Shop)*

### Sunday, October 28, 2012

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. *LCC Haunted House (Auto Shop/Body Shop)*

# Keep hope alive

By Dr. Pete Campos

Luna Community College is strategically positioned to meet the program and physical challenges of its authorized service area and on-line instructional delivery. This has not come easy and without its disappointments. We've made it possible through professional persistence, hiring credentialed faculty and treating the whole northeastern New Mexico part of our service area as

**ONE.**

We have kept hope alive despite the deep dip in our economy, significant population loss throughout the last decade and the demanding financial pressures placed on our families, friends, public institutions, private sector small businesses and community governments. This reminds me of the maturity and character of Nelson Mandela who was put on trial in 1964 by the South African government and was sentenced to life in prison for treason and supposedly to be silenced. That did not occur. In fact, his rise to the presidency of a post-apartheid South Africa - which still suffers from economic apartheid - came because of citizen's activism.

By keeping hope alive, not giving up, providing numerous accredited programs of study and working every day to bring jobs to our region we turn the wheels of life, vitality and progress. Yes, there are differences of opinion. By respecting each other's view consensus occurs, issues are resolved and while we may not have received all we wanted, we are then able to move forward and not get discouraged. If

**We've changed to meet the broad needs of our students! And, we'll continue to change as our student needs change. Unpredictability is grounds for hope.**

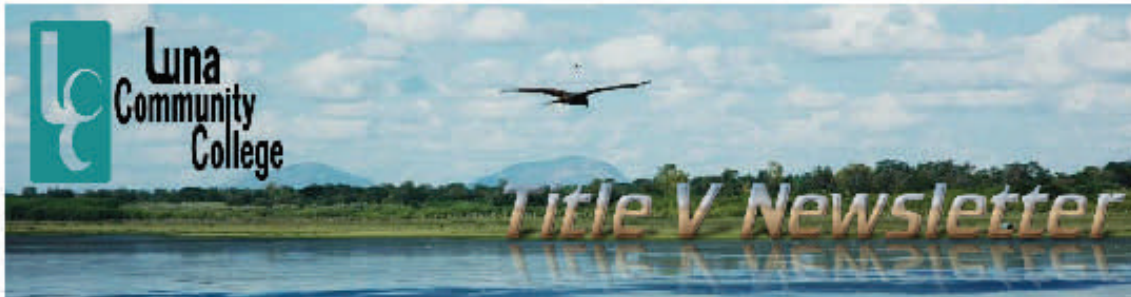
Nelson Mandela would have given up, he could not have led efforts to overcome the apartheid era. Apartheid was devised to control the economic and social system in South Africa.

Things change! Our graduation rates continue to increase significantly because we have invested and focus on the success of our students. We are prepared academically and vocationally to support a youth "CAMBIAR" center in Las Vegas, a race track in Raton, an agricultural project in Springer, a fisheries development in Santa Rosa, an area products marketing distribution center in Mora and so much more. We are now reviewing the possibility of a government services degree program that will serve as a direct pipeline into federal, state and local government jobs.

We've changed to meet the broad needs of our students! And, we'll continue to change as our student needs change. Unpredictability is grounds for hope. When we move forward and try, not sure of the outcome, we progress. If we take on a pessimistic view, criticize without positive solutions, assume that we are doomed and try to infect everyone else with despair, then we stifle our mere existence. We don't want that to happen. When it comes to the worst we face, nature itself provides resilience and surprises. It's the endless possibilities we possess within us for taking action, changing and caring. Luna Community College is on the right course to accomplish many more goals.



**This file photo depicts Rough Rider Park located east of the Luna Community College main campus. The LCC physical plant crew worked diligently over the summer to keep it in good condition.**



**Luna Community College’s Title V Mission:**

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

**September 2012**

Volume 5 Issue 9

**A Tribute to Mr. Rick Gaona**

*By: Lorraine Martinez*

On February 6, 2008, I sent a letter to Mr. Rick Gaona introducing myself and the staff, along with outlining the goals and objectives of the grant and how I was going to implement all of them over the next five years. Mr. Gaona emailed our office and informed me that he was there as a Program Officer to help support and guide the Title V Program at Luna Community College.



**Mr. Rick Gaona, Title V Program Officer for the United States Department of Education**

Mr. Gaona informed me that in September the United States Department of Education would do an on-site visit in October of 2008. The dates were set and a team came to Luna Community College and

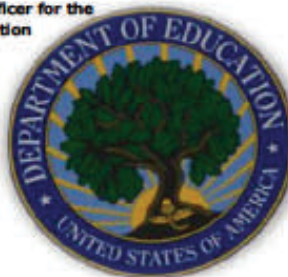
evaluated the program. Mr. Gaona, the Program Officer, Department of Education Lawyer, and a Federal Accountant were in the Title V office for three days. Mr. Gaona and his team conducted themselves in a professional manner during the evaluation of all documentation and the timeline for grant performance, specifically Year 1. The support, guidance, and recommendations to move the Title V grant forward was a relief. I anticipated success for the next four years with Mr. Gaona’s direction.

The Title V grant ended on September 30, 2012 here at

Luna Community College and was a very successful and productive grant for our college along with the rural communities we serve. Five years of initiatives, commitment, and efficiency in providing online services has confirmed the need we have provided for students. I would like to thank our Program Officer, Mr. Rick Gaona from the United States Department of Education for his professionalism, leadership, guidance, and fortitude in helping us achieve our goals and allowing us the opportunity for the past five years in helping accomplish our objectives.

I can’t say enough of how supportive and accommodating Mr. Gaona has been in directing our program to the next level of success. The many

questions I had of Mr. Gaona throughout the years helped direct the program into what it is today; a program that is well respected in the community and in the college. Having the flexibility and the vision of what needed to be out on the forefront, gave us the



motivation, imagination, and inspiration of what it takes to be a part of a federal grant. Mr. Gaona helped the program move to the next level and be that model nationwide that faculty and students would benefit from.

*In conclusion, the Title V Program at Luna Community College would like to thank Mr. Rick Gaona for his inspiration and leadership for the past five years.*

**Title V Staff**

- Lorraine Martinez**, Project Director
- Tiffany Young**, Administrative Assistant
- Larry Paiz**, Instructional Designer
- John Tiernan**, Online Student Services Developer
- Rick Roybal**, Distance Education Technician



**Luna Community College student-athlete Ridge Hoopi-Haslam completed a successful summer baseball season in Hickory, N.C. Haslam batted .397 with one home run and no errors while playing in the North Carolina Collegiate Summer League. The centerfielder from Hilo, Hawaii is a sports performance major.**

## Scared...

Continued from page 1

The costume contest is open to all students, administration, faculty and staff. There will be several prizes given in different categories.

## LCC partners with rave wireless to deliver timely emergency notifications

All students, faculty and staff should register today at: [www.getrave.com/login/luna](http://www.getrave.com/login/luna)

Luna Community College and [ravewireless.com](http://ravewireless.com) announced today the launch of its new broadcast alerting service for sending timely information to students, faculty, staff, and other members of the campus community. Using Rave Alert supplied by Rave Wireless ([ravewireless.com](http://ravewireless.com)), Luna Community College can disseminate timely notifications to thousands of users via multiple communication channels including mobile text alerts. The system can distribute an alert to the entire campus community in the case of an emergency, or a targeted group, such as baseball/softball players, and more. All students, faculty and staff should register for the service at [www.getrave.com/login/luna](http://www.getrave.com/login/luna).

“Our students today are living an unprecedented mobile lifestyle,” says Andrew Duran, Life/Safety Coordinator. “Rave Alert puts us in the best possible position to send emergency communications to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, regardless of where everyone is at the time. Text, email alerting represent just a portion of our emergency communications procedure but we expect it will be an important part. I strongly encourage every member of the campus community to take a brief moment to register their mobile phone number for the emergency alert service.”

It's easy to register for emergency alerts from Luna Community College. To sign-up, any member of the LCC community should go to [www.getrave.com/login/luna](http://www.getrave.com/login/luna) and follow the simple instructions. The only cost to registrants is the standard text messaging costs in accordance with their chosen carrier's calling plan.

### About Rave Wireless

Rave Wireless ([ravewireless.com](http://ravewireless.com)) is the pioneer of mobile phone programs for colleges and universities. Rave solutions range from Rave Alert for simple and reliable broadcast text and voice alerting, to Rave Campus for a complete mobile phone program. Delivering critical campus alerts, and providing access to innovative academic tools and time-sensitive community information, Rave allows college administrators to provide a personalized, real-time university experience on students' mobile devices. A trusted partner of top mobile carriers and leading enterprise software companies, Rave Wireless is headquartered in New York, NY. Investors include Bain Capital Ventures, Sigma Partners, and RRE Ventures.

### Contact:

Andrew J. Duran  
(505) 454-5334  
[aduran@luna.edu](mailto:aduran@luna.edu)

“We want to get our college involved in school activities,” said Castellano, who is also the LCC Student Government Vice-President. “Everyone is encouraged to attend even if they are not wearing a costume. Last year's contest was very entertaining.”