

The Luna Light



"Creating Opportunities for You!"

Second Volume 1 Issue 3

January 25, 2018

Luna CC faculty, staff and students find their way to decision table

Following a report by the Higher Learning Commission which underscored a number of concerns with how the institution is being governed, the Board of Trustees has approved a significant number of policy revisions and adoptions over the past month. The majority of changes are aimed at enhancing the processes by which the faculty, staff and students contribute to the well-being and strength of the institution.

At their Dec. 19 meeting, Trustees unanimously approved the by-laws and constitution for the newly recognized staff advisory senate. The Senate was established as part of the College's new Shared Governance Policy which was approved on Dec. 12. The shared governance policy sets the principles for engaging Luna Community College constituents

in the process of informed decision-making.

The Staff Advisory Senate will serve as a source of input on issues and decisions at the college relating to all regular full-time/part-time, non-faculty staff at the main campus and its satellites and site. The Senate will report to the College president and the staff senate president shall serve on the Governance Council along with leadership from student and faculty senates. In addition, the Senate shall promote the general well-being of Luna Community College by assisting the college in achieving its goals.

Also on Dec. 19, the Board participated in a workshop led by consultants Dr. Hugh Prather and John F. Kennedy of Cuddy and McCarthy, LLP. This, and other upcoming trainings,

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Luna Community College Dental Assisting Instructor Dawna Ortega-Gallegos shows her students proper techniques on mixing in dental materials. Pictured clockwise are Ortega-Gallegos, Gloriana Baca, Aubrie Chavez, Isaiah Sandoval, Amber Trujillo, Chantel Rivera, Kimmeah Martinez and Tabitha Leyba.

#LCCmatters

Find their way to decision table...

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are geared to enhance the Board's understanding of its roles and responsibilities, collective effectiveness, and ability to achieve the institution's goals.

"We are working diligently to make things better at Luna Community College," said LCC BOT Chairman Dan Romero. "We respect the Higher Learning Commission's recommendations and are very serious about solving these issues."

Policy changes included revisions to the College's nepotism policy which states that the President shall not hire or approve the hiring of a person who is the spouse, partner and/or significant other, father, father-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, son, son-in-law, daughter, daughter-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, sister or sister-in-law of the President or of a member of a Board of Trustees of Luna Community College.

On Jan. 9 the Board also approved policy revisions that disconnect the employee performance appraisal process from the contract renewal process.

The Higher Learning



John F. Kennedy of Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP provides information to the Luna Community College Board of Trustees last month about their roles and responsibilities.

Commission Board of Trustees issued the Show-Cause Order based on its findings of non-compliance following a Higher Learning Commission Advisory Visit to the College in June 2017. A Show-Cause Order is a procedural order that shifts the burden to the institution to demonstrate that it is in compliance with all the requirements associated with its Higher Learning Commission accreditation. Luna

Community College is required to present its case for accreditation in response to the Show-Cause Order in a Show-Cause report by Thursday, Feb. 1. Luna Community College will then host an on-campus Show-Cause Evaluation Visit conducted by Higher Learning Commission peer reviewers from March 19 to March 21.



Luna Community College student Jesse Ibarra of Palm Springs gets ready to bench press at the Luna Community College Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center. Many students take a self-paced one credit hour course at their own convenience with free weights, weight machines or cardio equipment. For more information on the Luna Community College Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center, call 505-425-2670.



Over 70 people attend Santa Rosa Woodshop Open House

Over 70 people attended Luna Community College's Santa Rosa Satellite Woodshop Open House on Jan. 12. Many in attendance were Santa Rosa High School students.

"It's a beautiful facility and very nice," said Elias Giangola, a junior at Santa Rosa High School. "I'm really excited about this. We've always worked in a cramped room. We have a lot of equipment that we can explore and learn."

The total square footage of the building is 9,000 and the cost of the project was \$964,246.50. The open house was broadcast live on KSSR Radio out of Santa Rosa.

"You're the future," said Luna Community College Trustee Severiano Sisneros to a group of Santa Rosa High School students. "Luna Community College's role is to help you earn that degree. It took a lot of effort to get this building. Make a difference—turn it to something great."

The new woodshop is located



Several dozen people attended the Woodshop Open House including LCC Santa Rosa Trustee Severiano Sisneros.

across the street from the Luna Community College Santa Rosa Satellite. The address of the new woodshop is 133 South Fourth St.

The new woodshop will offer an opportunity for dual credit, for credit and community education courses.

"This new woodshop will offer more space and new equipment to safely accommodate more students," said Luna Community College Santa Rosa Satellite Director Joseph Salas.

Currently there is one evening woodshop class being offered for the spring semester. It is being offered from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Among the speakers for the open house were Luna Community College Interim President Ricky Serna, Sisneros, Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools Superintendent Richard Perea and Santa Rosa Mayor Joseph Campos.

For more information, call Salas at 575-472-1400.



Frequently asked questions on Accreditation

Luna Community College was placed on a Show-Cause Order in November 2017 by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the Luna Community College administration went to work quickly on addressing the action and implications of the order. Luna Community College is fully committed to student success and meeting all the HLC accreditation criteria.

What is the Higher Learning Commission and what is the goal of an accreditation agency?

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is one of several regional accreditors that accredit colleges and universities. Its mission is “serving the common good by assuring and advancing the quality of higher learning.” HLC accredits colleges and universities in a 19-state region of the United States, including New Mexico. The U.S. Department of Education defines the goal of an accreditation agency “to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.” Accrediting agencies, which are private educational associations of regional or national scope, develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met.

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the recognition that an institution maintains standards requisite for its graduates to gain admission to other reputable institutions of higher learning or to achieve credentials for professional practice. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels



of quality.

Is LCC still accredited?
Yes. Luna Community College

remains accredited while on Show-Cause.

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Why was Luna placed on a Show-Cause Order?

The HLC Board of Trustees issued the Show-Cause Order based on its findings of non-compliance following a Higher Learning Commission Advisory Visit to the College in June 2017. Detailed documents related to the Higher Learning Commission's Board's decision, as transmitted to Luna Community College, as well as more information about the Show-Cause Order can be accessed by clicking on HLC's Mark of Affiliation at the bottom of the college's main landing page at www.luna.edu and following the hyperlinks to the College's profile on HLC's website, or by searching for Luna Community College's profile directly on the Higher Learning Commission's website at www.hlcommission.org

What is a Show-Cause Order?

A Show-Cause Order is a procedural order that shifts the burden to the institution to demonstrate that it is in compliance with all the requirements associated with its Higher Learning Commission accreditation. If the institution has not proven that it is in compliance with all such requirements after the period of Show Cause has been completed, HLC will withdraw the College's accreditation.

What does this mean for students that are currently attending LCC or that will attend LCC?

While on Show Cause, the College remains accredited. In most cases, other institutions of higher education will continue to accept the institution's credits in transfer or for admission to a higher degree program while the College is under a Show-Cause order. All colleges and universities define their own transfer and admission policies. Current and future students should contact any institution they plan to attend so they are knowledgeable about the admission and transfer policies for that institution.

Will students be eligible for financial aid while the college is on a Show-Cause Order?

Yes. Federal Financial Aid remains unaffected during this period.

What is LCC doing to ensure that it remains accredited?

Several team committees have been tasked to primarily prepare a report in response to the Show-Cause Order that will be sent to the Higher Learning Commission by Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018. Luna Community College will then host an on-campus Show-Cause Evaluation Visit conducted by HLC peer reviewers no later than March 2018.

When will LCC learn if it remains an accredited institution?

In June 2018, the Higher Learning Commission's Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has successfully demonstrated that it is now in compliance with the aforementioned accreditation requirements and whether the Show-Cause Order can be removed.

What can a student, employee or a community member do to assist LCC during this period? Luna Community College students, employees or community members are welcomed to share their views with the Higher Learning Commission in writing in advance of the visit in March. It is important to share information on how important Luna Community College is not only to Las Vegas, but to northeastern New Mexico. We also respect and welcome anyone who has different views on the college. The HLC team will also devise an agenda for the visit that will engage constituents on relevant issues while reviewing the institution's compliance with HLC requirements.

Where can someone get more information on the Show-Cause Order?

A link has been set up to provide the general public with access to documents provided to the college by the Higher Learning Commission and documents that are being used to prepare the Show Cause Order report including drafts of the report itself. The link can be found on the front page of the Luna Community College Website at www.luna.edu. Detailed documents related to the Higher Learning Commission's Board's decision, as transmitted to Luna Community College, as well as more information about the Show-Cause Order can be accessed by clicking on HLC's Mark of Affiliation at the bottom of the college's main landing page at www.luna.edu and following the hyperlinks to the College's profile on HLC's website, or by searching for Luna Community College's profile directly on the Higher Learning Commission's website at www.hlcommission.org.

President's Message

Together, we respect the Show-Cause Order and we are working on a plan of action that will include administration, faculty, staff, students and community members. We will stand together to successfully overcome this challenge on your behalf. I will further assure you that this process will undoubtedly yield a stronger institution.

As always, I appreciate your dedication to Luna Community College.

Sincerely,

Ricky A. Serna
Luna Community College Interim President

Comments on Luna Community College

Luna Community College is seeking comments from the public about the College in preparation for its evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The College will host a Show-Cause visit March 19-21, 2018, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission.

Luna Community College has been accredited by HLC since 1982. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet HLC's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college to the following address:
Public Comment on Luna Community College,
Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street,
Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411. The public may also submit comments on HLC's website at www.hlcommission.org/comment.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing.

All comments must be received by Feb. 19, 2018.

LCC Feature of the Week

Anita Roybal: Teamwork and respect is evident

Name: Dr. Anita M. Roybal

Position: Director of Humanities

Years at Luna

Community College: 2 years and two months

What is special about

LCC? That we serve a

unique population of students that may

otherwise not be able to

get a quality education.

Working on the Show

Cause Order has brought

us together to rally for a

common cause—allowing

LCC to continue to serve

our communities. Our

teamwork and respect

for each other has

become evident in this process.

Favorite food and why? Vanilla

ice cream with *biscochitos*. I love

taking my grandkids to the diner in

Mora for an ice cream treat—good

excuse to have an ice cream. I

consider *biscochitos* part of the food

pyramid.

What is your favorite thing to

do? To enjoy a good cup of

coffee in the early morning hours

while sitting in my favorite comfy



Director of Humanities Dr. Anita M. Roybal

chair in my living room with a fire in the fireplace and appreciating the view of the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains that span the Mora Valley.

Favorite TV show and why?

Suits—I like stories about lawyers and their shenanigans.

Where would you like to see

yourself five years from now?

Healthy and working on my writing. I

have so much to share. I want others

to learn from my experiences of a

writing.

Who is your favorite sports team

and why? The Mora Rangers.

I'm not a sports fan.

If you could ask for one thing for

LCC, what would it be? For LCC

to continue to have professional,

knowledgeable people in place to

create an educational institution that

will deliver the best education

possible to our students.

mom raising a big family and of an educator serving in different capacities for many years.

What is your greatest strength?

The ability to accept the

things I cannot change

and to work on the

things I can change

(and hopefully, the

wisdom to know the

difference!)

What do you need to

improve on?

Everything!

Specifically, my health

– eat healthy, exercise;

and, take time to do

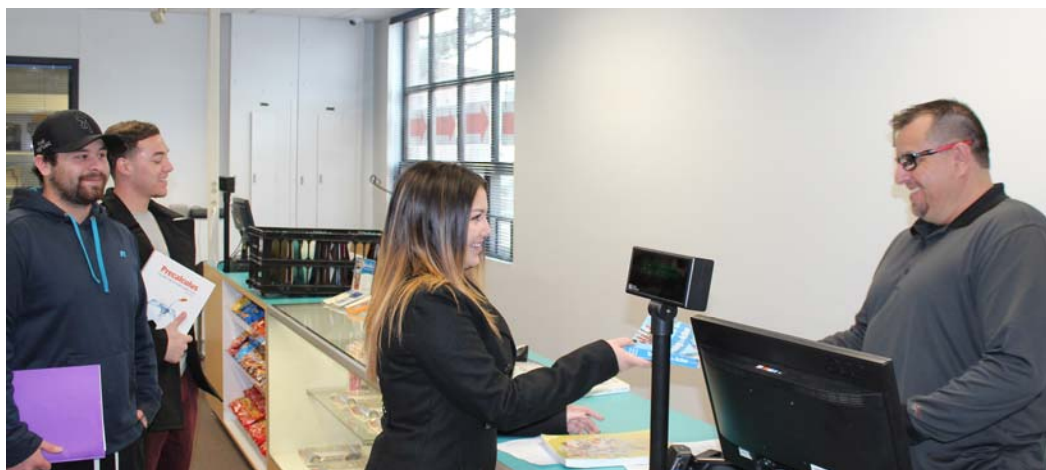
more reading and more

Students,
faculty and staff are
invited to
**Las Vegas
Night
at the
Legislature**
from
5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
on Thursday, Feb. 8
at
La Fonda Hotel
in Santa Fe.
A bus will be
leaving at 4 p.m.
from the
Luna CC
Administration
Building
and return
at 10:30 p.m.



*Sign up with Dawna Ortega at dortega@luna.edu
by Friday, Feb. 2. Let's show state legislators that
Luna Community College matters.*

Faces and places at Luna Community College



Pictured clockwise are: LCC Welding and Automotive Instructor Donnie Adkins and Gene Sandoval at the LCC Half Hour Radio Show at KNMX; Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools Superintendent Richie Perea at the Santa Rosa Woodshop Open House; LCC students Briana Sanchez, Tino Martinez and Dominick Quintana stand in line to buy textbooks for the spring semester from LCC Bookstore Manager Ron Duran; LCC students Andres and Nicholas Gonzales meet with advisor Janice Medrano and new Nursing Director Maxine Hughes.