

Mares, Trujillo thankful for Luna Community College education

In May, 2018 Brittney Mares and JaMarcus Trujillo will be earning a bachelor of science degree in biology from New Mexico Highlands University. Both are thankful for the start they got from Luna Community College.

“Luna Community College helped me out a lot; it opened a lot of doors for me,” said Mares who earned an associate of science degree in general science from Luna Community College in fall of 2016. “I’m planning on being a neurosurgeon. Luna Community will help me stand out when I go to medical school.”

Mares said she is looking at attending medical school at either the University of New Mexico, Denver University or Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine.

“I take it one day at a time,” said Mares. “If I work hard now, it will pay off in the end.”

Trujillo also earned an associate of science degree from Luna Community College in fall of 2016.

“I’m looking at either working in the teaching field or working in a chemistry or biology lab,” said Trujillo. “Eventually I would like to earn a master’s degree in ecology or organic chemistry. I didn’t think I was going to make it this far. It was a learning experience that we took together.”

Mares and Trujillo have a daughter together, Zaishah, age 4.

“Having a child gave me a purpose,” says Trujillo. “Our daughter wasn’t born in the best of health, but I’m happy to say she’s very healthy now.”

Both Mares and Trujillo have lost a parent and are thankful for Viles Scholarships that have assisted them in paying their education.

Currently, Mares and Trujillo are working at Luna Community College’s Academic Center for Excellence Lab. Mares is a math and science tutor. Trujillo is an embedded tutor who accompanies students to classes.

“This gem on the hill (Luna Community College) has a great support system,” says Trujillo. “I have taken rigorous courses and never felt I was going to fail.”

Luna Community College Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Director Francisco Apodaca says that Mares and Trujillo are exemplary students.

“Brittney and JaMarcus are outstanding students,” says Apodaca. “They had great initiative and leadership skills while they were here at Luna Community College. I’m proud of what they’ve done so far and am prouder of what they are going to do in the future.”

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Luna Community College graduates Brittney Mares and JaMarcus Trujillo both have set high goals. Mares wants to be a neurosurgeon while Trujillo wants to earn his master's degree in ecology or organic chemistry.