

# Sandra Maria Garcia says Luna instructors kind, helpful

Sandra Maria Garcia was born in Las Vegas, N.M., graduated from West Las Vegas High School in 2016 and looks forward to one day earning her degree from Luna Community College.

As many people seem to be gravitating to other cities and other colleges and universities, Garcia does not consider herself a rebel—rather she describes herself as a good kid and refuses to give up on Las Vegas and northern New Mexico.

“Las Vegas is a good place,” says Garcia. “It’s quiet enough to be comfortable and busy enough to keep you occupied. I like to go fishing with my dad. We go everywhere. This summer we want to go fishing in Red River.”

But it’s not about the fish for Garcia. It’s about getting her start at Luna that matters most.

“I like the instructors here,” says Garcia. “They help you, they care, they’re kind. I like the fact that they help us understand the work and not just give you a handout. I prefer an instructor that is interactive with their classes.”

Garcia is majoring in general studies but is looking at transferring over to media arts.

“The instructor there Kenneth Bachicha is motivating me to head into that direction,” said Garcia. “He has made me fall in love with Las Vegas again. I’ve taken photography and Photoshop classes with him and it’s nice to see the beautiful scenery Las Vegas offers.”

Bachicha’s influence may have Garcia doing a 180 turn on her original dream—becoming a veterinarian.

“I was always that kid that if we saw a hurt dog on the side of the road, I would beg my parents to stop and let me take it home and get it better,” said Garcia. “But I love photography. Maybe I can do both. With enough determination and head-strength I think I can do it.”

Luna will find out in June if it keeps its accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. This is something that is on Garcia’s mind.

“I would be devastated if I couldn’t finish school here at Luna and equally devastated if my cousin Davian wouldn’t be able to come here either. He will be graduating from high school this year and he wants to go into culinary arts. It wouldn’t be good for either one of us.”

Garcia has appreciated what the school has done to keep her informed with Higher Learning Commission issues.

“I’m one of those students who checks my e-mail daily and am always on Facebook to see what Luna posts,” says Garcia.

Luna is also special to Garcia because her mom Theresa graduated from this school. Theresa earned a business degree.

“My mom loves that I attend Luna; she knows it’s a great place to get an education,” says Garcia. “I feel comfortable here at Luna. Between classes there are a lot of places to finish my homework. The library does a good job as do the computer labs.”

Garcia would like to walk the graduating line in 2019 or 2020.

“Sandra came into the program last year and is really taking off on learning the software that’s needed

for media arts,” said Luna Media Arts Instructor Kenneth Bachicha. “She is really creative, I look forward to having her as a media arts major. She is the type of student that you want in your classroom.”

Garcia wants to learn as much as she can, regardless of the time it takes.

“I want to explore the options that Luna offers,” says Garcia. “I don’t want to settle. I may still be in school in five years. I’m not in a hurry. I will always look at Luna as giving me a good start. I recommend Luna to other people. There’s times that Luna gets a bad rap because of the cost of tuition. I look at Luna as being affordable not cheap. Why go somewhere more expensive, when you can come to Luna? A lot of people see how expensive other colleges are and they end up coming back here.”



Sandra Maria Garcia is pictured with Luna Interim President Ricky Serna.