

“I chose Luna!”

Kimberley Padilla wants to earn several certificates while in college



Kimberley Padilla loves Luna Community College. And she wants everyone to know it. A native of Mora, Padilla is expected to graduate in fall 2018 with a certificate in Automotive Collision Repair Technology. This, however, is only one of three others she wants to pursue. Padilla is interested in earning a business management, culinary arts and cosmetology certificate.

“I love Luna,” says Padilla. “I’m a jack-of-all-trades type of person. Automotive Collision repair, by far, is one of the most challenging majors at Luna Community College. It involves many exciting activities. Painting a vehicle is one my biggest challenges, but when it is done there is no comparable feeling than to know you have accomplished such a big, awesome project.”

Padilla’s father Frank George Padilla worked in the auto body and mechanic industry and it interested her to go in that route at a young age. “He was a big inspiration to me,” said Padilla. “He had his own shop in Mora and I would help him sand and put putty on the dents.”

Padilla loves the artistic side to the auto body industry. “I love learning new things and I love that Luna provides me the opportunity to express my personal creativity.”

Auto Body Technology Instructor Anthony Baca, a veteran of over 25 years at Luna, says Padilla is on the right path to success. “Kimberley is a very artistic student that is very determined and goal-oriented,” says Baca. “She’s not afraid to try to challenge herself with different techniques.” As part of the program, Padilla is learning the mechanical, auto body, air painting and metal working aspects. At some point, Padilla would like to get a job as a metal worker or a service writer.

“Students are missing out on this program,” says Padilla. “Students, at the very least, should come and see this program. There is a lot of money to be made in this industry.”

Baca said there is more to his program than cars. “I would like to see this program have more career-oriented students,” said Baca. “Collision repair is needed for boats, trains and airplanes.”

Padilla has some great advice for potential students. “This industry is not just for male students,” says Padilla. “I’m proud of Luna for having such an awesome program. I hope it keeps its accreditation. I would hate for it to ever close.”



“Creating Opportunities for You!”