

Luna Eclipse

Volume 1 Issue 1

April 2016

Welcome to the Luna Eclipse!

By Sherry Goodyear

What you hold in your hand is the first edition of the Luna Eclipse newsletter. This newsletter will come out several times a year and is a place for all faculty, students, and staff to share what's going on. All articles and newsworthy submissions should be sent by the third Wednesday of every month for publication the following week (unless otherwise indicated). Please be sure to include a picture whenever possible, and the who, what, where, when, why and how of your story. Each edition will include an Events Calendar for the upcoming weeks, so please let us know what you have planned in your departments so important deadlines and dates are readily available. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and see ways you can contribute to future editions. Welcome and Happy Reading!

"NerdNation 2016" - An Awesome Experience

By Twila Quintana

Officers and advisors from Luna Community College's Beta Mu Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society recently attended Phi Theta Kappa's 98th Annual International Convention "NerdNation 2016" in Washington, D.C., April 6 – 9.

NerdNation provided a multitude of opportunities for scholarship, leadership, fellowship and learning, as we attended a wide variety of educational forums. Additionally, we listened to world-renowned speakers who helped us better understand the current Honors Study Topic – *Global Perspectives: How the World*

(Continued on page 3)



Luna Community College—*The People's College*

Mission Statement: "Creating Opportunities for You!"

Vision Statement: "New Mexico's Premier Community College:
Preparing Students for Success"

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Event's Calendar

Thursday, May 5, 2016 - Campus

STEM Recognition Reception 5:30 PM Rough Rider Grill LCC Campus.

Friday, May 6, 2-5 PM

Final Retention, Persistence and Completion Meeting at LRC.

May 9-13

Final's Week

May 9, 1:00 PM

Faculty Senate Meeting in GS108

Wednesday, May 11 at 3:00 PM

Awards Ceremony for LCC VOC Trades Department Under the Graduation Canopy at Main LCC Campus. Everyone is Invited!

Friday, May 13 at 2:00 pm

Graduation Practice

White tent in front of Humanities

Saturday, May 14, 10:00 AM

LCC Graduation

Monday, May 16 by midnight

All Luna Eclipse submissions must be turned in no later than midnight for the Graduation edition of the Luna Eclipse—the last one of the Semester.

Luna Eclipse Staff

Manager/Editor.....Sherry Goodyear

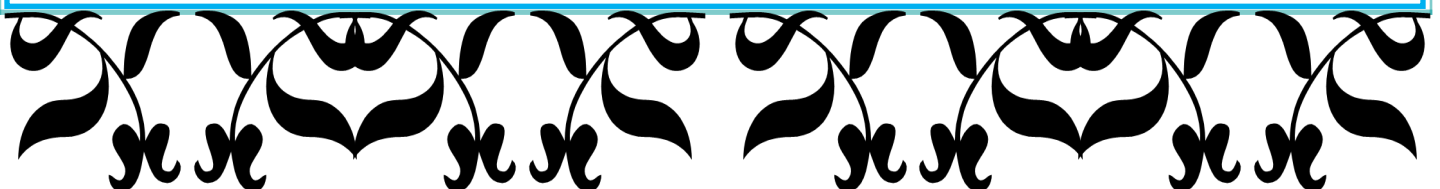
Reporter.....Tiffany Sena

Reporter.....Ted Saiz

Reporter.....Felipe Sanchez

Contact Us

To contact us with your story ideas or comments, please email us at sgoodyear@luna.edu or call us at 575-483-5009 or 1-800-588-7232 ext. 1903





“NerdNation 2016” - An Awesome Experience



By Twila Quintana , Chapter Advisor

(Continued from page 1)... Works, during general session with approximately 4,000 other Phi Theta Kappa members and advisors. NM Regional Vice President and Beta Mu Nu Chapter President Vanessa Chung said, “The energy here is so positive. I want to learn all I can to help our chapter and region be more successful.”

Another responsibility our chapter took very seriously was voting for International Officers to lead the Society for the upcoming year. We attended a political rally for the officer candidates, listened to a session of conversations with the candidate finalists, heard speeches on the Honors Study Topic from the top two candidates in each of the five officer positions, cast our chapter vote through our voting delegate Anisha Kotiar and celebrated with the newly named International Officers during a farewell dance. This experience caused NM Regional President and Beta Mu Nu Chapter Officer MariSol Rael to say, “After talking to so many candidates and seeing how similar they are to me, I want to run for International President next year.”

Our chapter also participated in the Hallmark Awards, through the completion of projects in 2015 and then the submission of written entries for our projects. Although the competition for acknowledgement at the International level is intense, our chapter officers, members and advisors received the following International recognition:

Distinguished Honors in Action Project Award

Distinguished Honors in Action Theme Award – Theme 2 “Ideas and Ideologies”

Top 100 Chapter

Distinguished Chapter Officer Team Award – Vanessa Chung, Anisha Kotiar, Angela Martinez and MariSol Rael

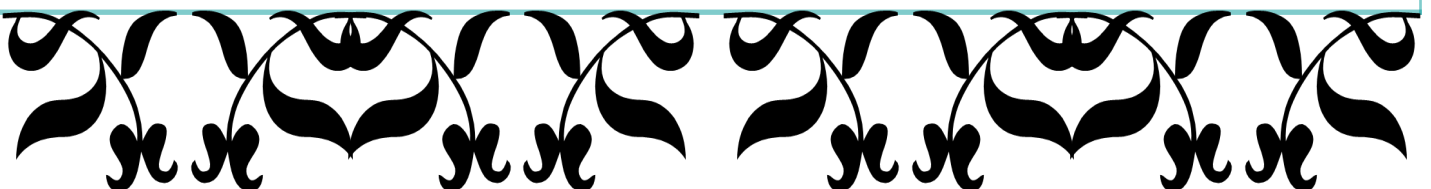
Coca Cola All-USA Academic Team Silver Scholar – Angela Martinez

Five Star Chapter Plan: Five Star Level – Beta Mu Nu Chapter

Continued Excellence Award for Advisors – Dr. Twila Quintana

Distinguished Chapter Advisor Team Award – Professor Cindy Armijo and Dr. Twila Quintana

Our lead advisor, was also acknowledged by Phi Theta Kappa for her years of experience, her dedication and striving for excellence, including her accomplishments and contributions to our chapter, our NM Region and the entire Society with two unique and coveted recognitions. Professor Armijo was named during two separate ceremonies with the distinction of the Advisor (Continued on page 4)





“NerdNation 2016” - An Awesome Experience

(Continued from page 3)



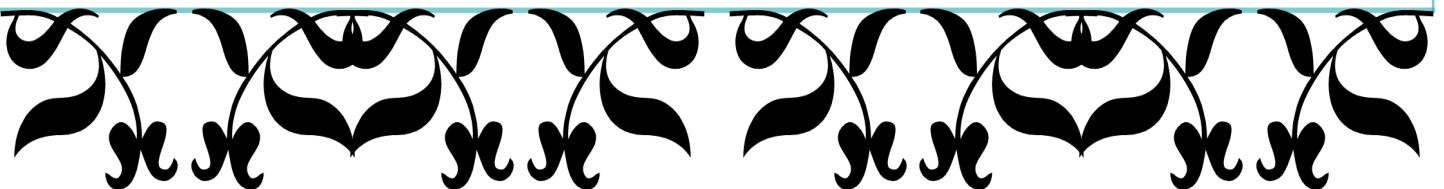
Emeritus Award and the Regional Coordinator Emeritus Award. Through these awards, Phi Theta Kappa recognizes losing her would be detrimental to the entire Society.

Although NerdNation 2016 is over, its memory and energy have ignited a spark in us that will continue to burn throughout this upcoming year as we work on our projects and lead our chapter and region. Reflecting back, Armijo said, “As advisors, it’s incredible to see the life-changing transformation in our students, with the exposure that they can compete against the cream of the crop – they are more than they ever thought they could be as part of something bigger than themselves. Oliver Wendell Holmes correctly said, ‘A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.’ Our goal is to help more members and advisors within the NM Region experience International events, including the whole Phi Theta Kappa Experience.”



(L to R) Chapter Advisor Cindy Armijo, MariSol Rael, Angela Martinez, Anisha Kotiar, Vanessa Chung and Co-Advisor Dr. Twila Quintana.

(L to R) Beta Mu Nu Chapter Officers, Vanessa Chung, Angela Martinez, Anisha Kotiar and MariSol Rael

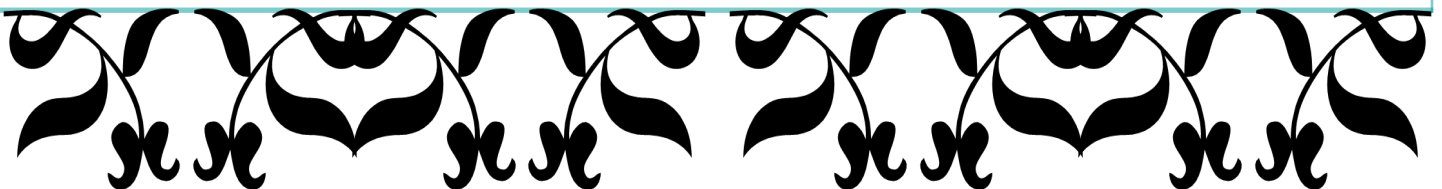




Beta Mu Nu Chapter Officers and Advisors on stage receiving the Distinguished Honors in Action Project and Distinguished Honors in Action Theme Awards at the 2016 NerdNation Convention in Washington, D.C. April 6-9. (L to R) Dr. Twila Quintana, Vanessa Chung, Angela Martinez, Division I International Vice President ; Amie Bernstein, MariSol Rael, Anisha Kotiar and Cindy Armijo.

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Awesome Work, Everyone!





“Meet the Staff” Interview: Emily Ulibarri



By: Tiffany Sena

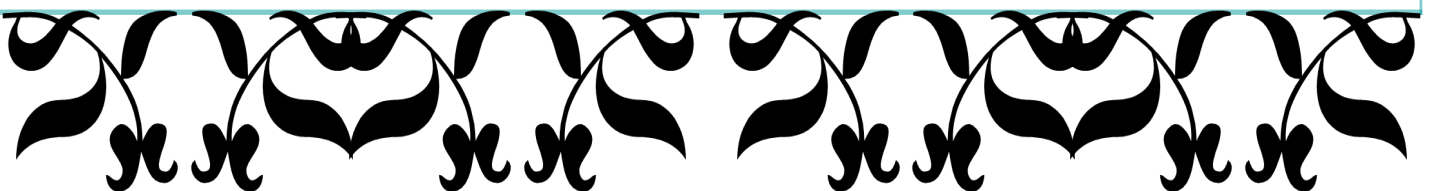
Emily Ulibarri, Office Manager at LCC’s Santa Rosa branch, is **the** person with whom all the students and teachers from Santa Rosa, Las Vegas, Springer and Mora sites interact. If a teacher has a student from Santa Rosa, or if a student is taking a class with a teacher who is stationed in Santa Rosa via ITV and through Luna’s online courses, he or she will definitely be in contact with Emily. All students and teachers from Santa Rosa are also in constant contact with Emily (for obvious reasons). As a person who we students rely greatly upon, Emily is a big part of our college experience. So, since most of us don’t know Emily on a personal level, let’s all get to know her a little bit better.



Emily has been married for nearly nineteen years and has one son named Emilio. She is originally from Tecolotito but enjoys living in Santa Rosa because it is a small town where everyone knows everyone else. She feels that it is a safe place to raise children.

Emily has been working for LCC for two years and prior to that worked seven years for Santa Rosa High School. The thing Emily most enjoys about working for Luna is “Helping the students.” Emily can relate to students because she, too, is taking classes at Luna. She is currently enrolled in a math class and is working toward a degree in Business Administration. She enjoys the math class because she says, “We have a lot of fun.”

Thanks Emily for all you do for Luna Community College!





Career Service Center Implementing OptimalResume Software—By Abran Romero



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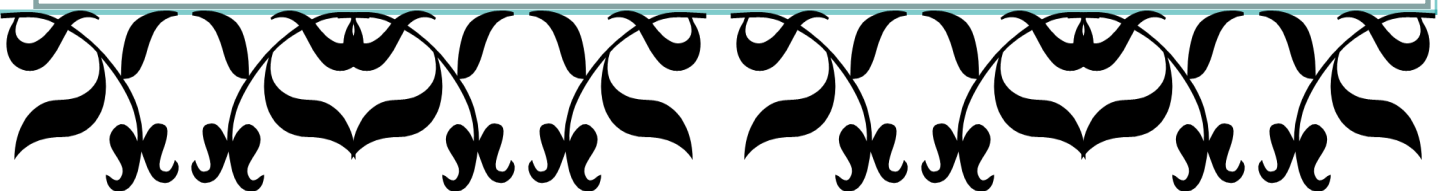
The Career Services Center has subscribed to Optimal-Resume, the leading online service for students to produce resumes, cover letters, store portfolio documents, and receive interview training.

This online software is really easy to use and allows students to quickly and effortlessly create professional documents. The instructions, examples, and content are customized and made to accommodate the specialized needs of our programs. If students need help building their employment documents or in preparing for their job search, they can go to the website

https:

luna.optimalresume.com. It is free for Luna students, staff and faculty.

Everyone will need his or her Luna student, staff, or faculty ID and email account to create his or her account at the above referenced website.





LCC Phi Theta Kappa Student Receives Academic Recognition

By Twila Quintana



Pictured from left to right: Chapter Advisor, Cindy Armijo, Angela Martinez, Nichole Martinez and Chapter Advisor, Dr. Twila Quintana.

Angela Martinez was recently named to the New Mexico All-State Academic Team and now awaits selection notification from the nationally competitive All-USA Community College Academic Team and the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team.

Martinez was recognized Thursday, February 4th during a ceremony at our State Capitol Roundhouse where legislators, two-year college presidents, and top education officials acknowledged the students named to the New Mexico All-State Academic Team for their academic achievements and contributions to their communities. In addition to the recognition, she will also receive a scholarship to attend one of the participating four-year state universities. “It was a great honor to represent LCC, Phi Theta Kappa and the Criminal Justice Program. I am especially thankful

for the and encouragement I have received from my Phi Theta Kappa Advisors, Professor Cindy Armijo and Dr. Twila Quintana. I felt so privileged to have my advisors and my sister attend the ceremony. I want to thank President Sanchez and the entire Luna Community College campus for supporting my academic achievements,” said Martinez.

As a New Mexico native representing the town of Ojo Sarco, Martinez will earn an Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Luna Community College this spring. Concurrently, she has been attending New Mexico Highlands University and is on track to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science.

“I consider myself fortunate to have received such an exceptional and valuable education from the criminal justice program here at Luna Community College. This program combined with my education in computer science will allow me to uniquely address technological advancements within this field,” said Martinez.

LCC faculty member, Phi Theta Kappa Regional Coordinator and Honor Society Chapter Advisor, Cindy Armijo said, “The All-State Academic Team gives us the opportunity to highlight the top students at our college. Not only is Angela one of the top students in the Criminal Justice program, but she is also very active at the chapter and regional levels of Phi Theta Kappa. In fact, Angela will be representing LCC at Phi Theta Kappa’s 98th International Convention – NerdNation 2016, in Washington, D.C. in April. The Beta Mu Nu Chapter and the New Mexico Region are very proud of Angela’s accomplishments.”

The All-USA and All-State Academic Teams are sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, Follett Higher Education Group, USA TODAY, the American Association of Community Colleges, New Mexico two-year college presidents, the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges, and the New Mexico Association of Independent Community Colleges.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team in partnership with Phi Theta Kappa. In addition, the Coca-Cola Foundation, along with the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation recognizes the New Century Scholars. Fifty students will be named Gold Scholars, each receiving a \$1,500 scholarship; fifty students will be named Silver Scholars, each receiving a \$1,250 scholarship; and fifty students will be named Bronze Scholars, each receiving a \$1,000 scholarship. A state may have multiple Gold, Silver, or Bronze Scholars. All scholars will also receive special medallions.

U. S. Senator, Martin Heinrich Visits LCC

By Sherry Goodyear

Martin Heinrich visited Luna Community College on Friday, February 19, 2016. The U. S. Senator and members of his staff met with Luna officials, took a tour of the Trades' departments, and Early Childhood Development Center, and then joined a group of students and educators at the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Dept. for a round-table discussion to talk about problems facing students these days.

Upon arrival, Senator Heinrich met with Luna President, Leroy Sanchez; V.P. of Academic Affairs, Dr. Vidal Martinez; Assistant to the President/Director of Education and Preschool, Debbie Trujillo; and Santa Rosa Trustee, Severiano Sisneros. The conversation ranged from Luna's desire to expand on its vocational offerings, renovation to the Building Technologies and Automotive Technologies' Facilities, educational cuts at the legislative level, and the challenges this will pose for all colleges, plans to create Luna blocks for the various high schools we serve, and the possibility of busing high school students in so they can take better advantage of Luna's educational opportunities. There was mention of the Mora Site and how, under Director, Wanda Martinez, many Mora students are graduating high school while simultaneously earning either certificates or associate's degrees – the beauty and benefit of dual credit which makes attainment of higher education while still in high school both possible and affordable. (Continued page 10).



(L to R) Senator, Martin Heinrich, Debbie Trujillo, Dr. Vidal Martinez, Patricia Dominquez, Constituent Liason for Heinrich's Office, and President Sanchez discuss issues and challenges pertaining to LCC .

Following this discussion, Senator Heinrich was taken on a tour of the Trades. He visited the Building Technologies, Automotive, Welding, and Cosmetology departments. The Building Technology area recently went through a renovation, and the Automotive area is currently being updated. One of the most impressive features being added to Luna's Automotive Department is a Paint booth which takes the process of painting a car from two to three days down to two to three hours. Next the Senator went to the Early Childhood Development Building and visited with some of the preschool children who attend there.

Finally, Senator Heinrich and his entourage made their way to the STEM Department where they met with a small group of Luna and Highlands students to discuss the challenges they have faced while earning their degrees. The students who agreed to share their stories included Jamarcus Trujillo, Margo Martinez, Vanessa Chung, Lisa Cox, and Amanda Salas. Students discussed issues ranging from the cost of textbooks to the lack of affordable student housing. In depth discussion about financing college resulted in students sharing personal stories of student loans and the resulting debt, having to work multiple jobs as single parents to afford college, and poor advisement leading to financial aid being exhausted before an actual degree is earned. Senator Heinrich pointed out that many students are graduating deeply in debt and consequently, are not buying houses as they did in past generations because they are paying back student loans instead. He said the current cumulative debt of college graduates is \$1.3 trillion which exceeds the current credit card debt Americans hold. (Continued on page 11).



Inside one of the newly-installed drying booths in the Automotive Dept. (L to R) Trustee, Severiano Sisneros, Senator Heinrich, Pres. Sanchez and Matthew Cordova, Office Manager of the Physical Plant.

President Sanchez, Senator Heinrich and Trustee, Severiano Sisneros, in the Welding Dept.—the next in line for renovation.





Debbie Trujillo, Assistant to the President/Director of Education and Preschool, and Senator Heinrich sit with two of Luna's Preschool students, Jasparr Sandoval and Makayla Chavez in the Early Childhood Dev. Building.

Senator Heinrich with Germaine Sandoval, Cosmetology Master Instructor.



Financial Assistance Director, Michael Montoya stated that he and his department try to explore every avenue so students can avoid the pitfalls of student loans. He, himself heavily in debt with student loans, said he uses himself as an example when it comes to discouraging students from taking out student loans. Jamarcus Trujillo is just one of the students Montoya convinced not to take out student loans by explaining just how stressful trying to pay those loans back is. He pointed out that Luna's cost which is \$596.00 per semester for full-time, in-state tuition and \$1,092.00 for full-time, out-of-state tuition makes it one of the most affordable alternatives for higher education in the state, a fact that Senator Heinrich agreed is a positive feature about the college that more people need to be made aware of.

Also in attendance was newly hired STEM Director, Francisco Apodaca. Apodaca, who was a non-traditional student himself, stated that he also accrued a lot of student debt while attaining his degree. Apodaca, who is 62, said that he won't live long enough to pay off his student debts and in addition, he will never be able to retire because his debt is so huge. Heinrich said the issue of student debt is one that Congress is grappling with because it is adversely affecting the economy as graduates focus on paying off debt rather than buying homes and making other investments. Apodaca ended with asking Senator Heinrich for his support in re-establishing ties between Luna and STEM companies all over the state. Senator Heinrich agreed to do so pointing out that Los Alamos National and Sandia Labs are getting ready to go through a re-bid process which makes this a good time to create these types of relationships. (Continued on Page 12)

Criminal Justice instructor, Cindy Armijo thanked Senator Heinrich for being at the forefront of the College Affordability Act Congress is working on. Referring to the current cuts in education and raises in federal monies appropriated for prisons, Armijo said, "Our Government spends more money to incarcerate inmates than it does to educate its people," to which Heinrich replied, "Well, said."

The senator's visit ended with a group photo and a hope that this is the beginning of useful conversations that will help create a larger understanding of the problems LCC and other institutions of higher learning and those they serve are facing.



(Top) Senator Heinrich with participants of round table discussion.

Faculty Senate Election Winners for 2016-2017 Announced... By Leslie Dennis

Congratulations to our elected winners!! Here are the final results of the Faculty Senate Election for 2016-2017.

Please attend the next Faculty Senate meeting of this year, May 9th at 1:00pm in GS108 to welcome your new Senators:

1. Vice Chair - Erin Gilland
2. Senator- Allied Health/Nursing - Susan Groham
3. Senator - Business/STEM - Sequoia Romero
4. Senator - Humanities/Education/ABE - Laura Gonzales-Meredith
5. Senator - Trades - Joseph Montoya
6. Senator - Satellites - Patricia Kuhlman
7. Senator - Associate Members (Adjunct Faculty) - Roxane Despain

**Congratulations
Everyone!!!**



A Few more pictures of Senator Heinrich's visit to LCC-The People's College

Anthony Baca, Collision Repair Tech Instructor, shows Senator Heinrich the 1936 Plymouth the students work on when they are between projects.

Senator Heinrich in roundtable discussion with Highlands and Luna students as well as some Luna faculty and staff.



(L. to R.) Luna Trustee, Severiano Sisneros, Luna President, Leroy Sanchez, Senator Martin Heinrich, STEM Director, Francisco Apodaca, and Financial Assistance Director, Michael Montoya.



Luna Community College Welding Department—Main
Campus -By Karen Wezwick



The Welding Program here at LCC in Las Vegas has produced a whopping 35 certifications in the last 3 terms. This is huge!!! The Welding instructor at Luna in Las Vegas is Donnie Adkins, and we currently have very full classes. The job outlook for certified welders is also very promising. Donnie Adkins started working for Luna’s Main Campus as a part-time instructor in 2013. He is a Certified Welder with 35 years in the industry and is currently a Full-time instructor for LCC.



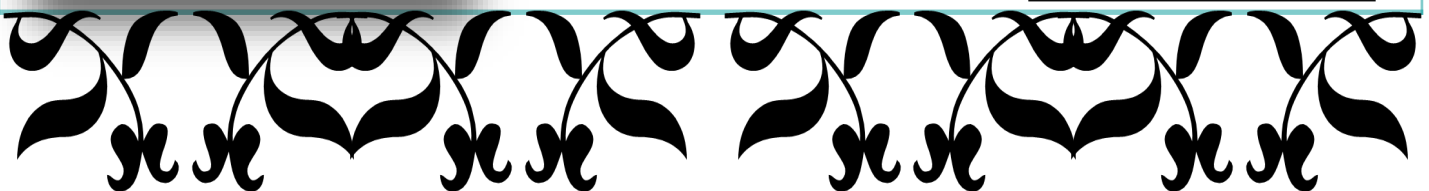
Pictured here (L to R): AWS Tester represents Rocky Mountain Testing, LLC, out of Cedar Crest, NM, Michael Thomas; in front-Frank Dominguez, a West dual-enrollment student; Henry Lopez (hiding); Paul Vance, Donnie Adkins (Welding Instructor); and Randall Garten.

See more pictures page 16.



**Welding Students Test
for Certification**

(Bottom three pictures L to R) Johnny Martinez (left), Randall Garten (top right), and (Bottom right) James Valdez testing their own welds for certification.





Excitement “Generating” in Electronics' Class -



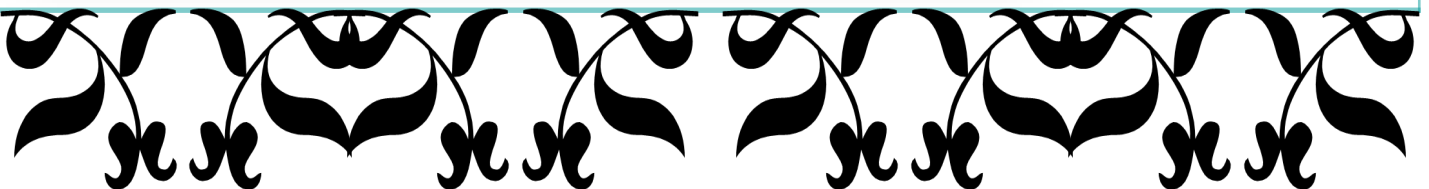
By Sequoia Romero

A few new students joined electronics and met with me in my office prior to the beginning of this class. One student in particular came in, hands trembling, and worried about the rigor of this class. He came from one of our local high schools. For proper protection of identity of a minor, I will leave out his name. Another also came by with a story about a difficult past and admitted worrying about surviving the class. After speaking with them, I assured them that it never hurts to try something new.

I wanted to do something different this semester because studying electronics is difficult; especially if you start with just reading and lectures. I challenged them to form a team and build a steam-powered generator with soup cans and whatever they could find in the Lab and outside of the campus. One student admitted that he had never done anything like this in school. I immediately noticed excitement that I don't usually see with students. Their brains were bubbling with ideas, and the students were talking with one another to try and solve technical problems to pull this project off. After all, I basically told them that they had to make their own electricity. After just a few days, they had already placed plumbing and a gauge for reading pressure. These features were not required; they just took it upon themselves to add them, and now what started off as soup cans looks like technology. All I can say is, “WOW!”



Sequoia Romero, whose goal it is to make electronics interesting and fun, is pictured with a steam-powered generator students from his ELEC102 Alternating Current Electronics' Class created out of soup cans and miscellaneous stuff they found around the shop and at home.



Luna Working on Plan to Encourage Better Retention, Persistence, and Completion for Students

By Sherry Goodyear

Friday, Feb. 13, 2016, Luna employees met at the Rough Rider Grill in what was the first of several meetings where the focus has been on creating a plan for better retention, persistence, and completion for students. Under the humorous tutelage of facilitator, Louie Trujillo, Luna employees have been lead down a path of exploration as they embark on the important process of improving Luna and the services it provides.

Together, the staff and instructors present generated a list of areas they think could use some improvement. Those areas included: communication, listening, structure, direction for students, being friendly and helpful, providing support for students, breaking down walls between departments, having consistency throughout the college, supporting cultural diversity, cross-training workers, providing more/better student and faculty orientations, providing enjoyable campus experiences, assessing community needs, doing students surveys, utilizing comment boxes for feedback on ways to improve, re-implementing College Success classes, providing free-textbooks, encouraging more collaboration between the Board of Trustees and employees, and so on.

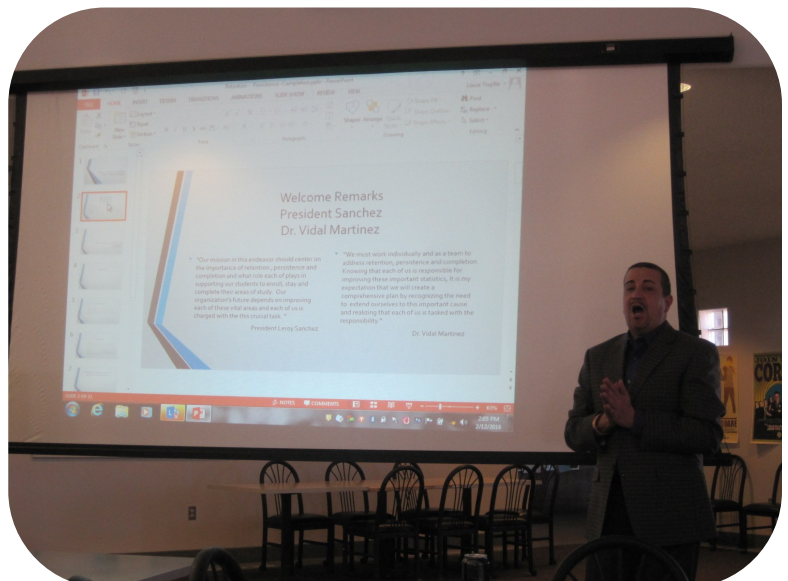
All of these areas and more have been further explored as Trujillo, over the past couple of months, has met with all the departments as well as satellite branches to discuss ideas for improving Luna's retention, persistence, and completion rates.

According to Dr. Martinez, VP of Instruction, LCC has a population that on average is 80% Hispanic, mostly female, and approximately 18-36 years of age. These factors must be considered when we ask ourselves what we need to do to best meet student needs. According to Trujillo, we are in the business of providing education to our students, and it is our job to anticipate the needs of our students so they can have the best college experience possible.

The meeting ended with Trujillo presenting the oldest and the newest Luna employees with Lobo basketball tickets. The winners were Don Bustos of the Small Business Dev. Center who has worked for Luna for thirty years, and Joelynn Sanchez-Garcia, Teacher/Caretaker and Luna's most recent hire at the time of the meeting.

The final meeting for the semester will be held on Friday, May 6, 2016 from 2-5pm at the LRC.

Facilitator, Louie Trujillo, helping Luna employees assess ways to improve retention, persistence, and completion.





Robert Mondragon's Amazing Swing

By Tina Gallegos



Wagon Mound teacher, fire chief, and rancher, Robert Mondragon, has been a Luna Community College-Springer Satellite student for about three years now. Mondragon also volunteers his time and outdoor grill to the Springer site's annual end-of-year barbeque. When he took his first welding class with instructor, Art Arguello, Robert says he knew nothing about welding.

Today, three years later, he has created several large projects including large gates, an archway, and now this beautiful southwestern themed swing. The swing project was just started at the beginning of the spring semester. Instructor Arguello praises Mondragon on how much he has improved and what great projects he has created. "He's done this all on his own. He'll ask for advice every once and a while," says Instructor Arguello.

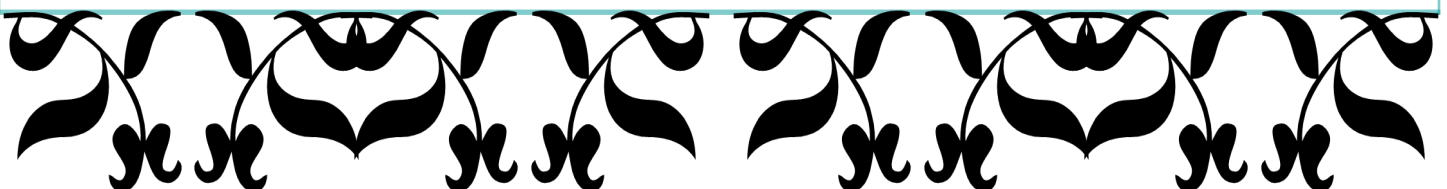
The metal swing and frame is made of two inch square tubing. The wheels, Mondragon says, "Were the hardest part." Using a formula book to figure out the size of wheels he wanted, he used flat metal and the bending machine to make a perfect circle for the wheels. The chain on the swing itself is adjustable, Mondragon says, "So if kids want to sit on here, I can just adjust the chain to lower the seat." On the top of the frame is a bull, a heart, and a cow made of horseshoes. The metal encircling the heart was created using the same technique used to fabricate the wheels. Each end also has a horseshoe that can be used for hanging a hat or coat.

Mondragon adds, "I consider welding an 'art.'" We can dream up a project and come in and create it. Art [Arguello] is very patient with his students. His patience helps everybody learn better. He doesn't get upset when we make mistakes; he tells us how to fix it and shows us interesting tricks and techniques to make us better welders."



Springer Welding
Instructor, Art Arguello
and student, Robert
Mondragon with swing
his built in Welding class.

Nice Job!





What's going on in Mora...



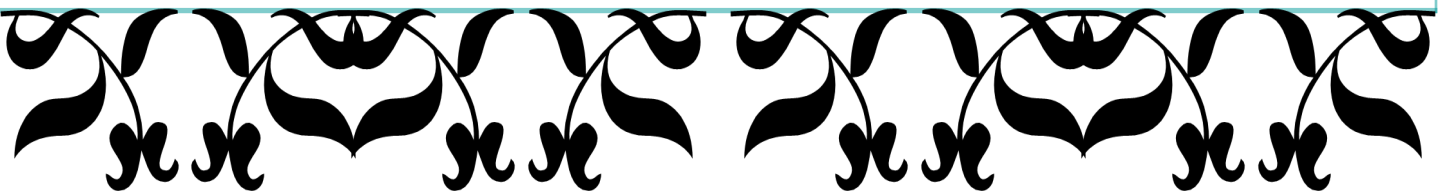
By Wanda Martinez

Though the snowy weather belies the fact that it is indeed spring, another semester is quickly coming to a close. Allow us to offer our enthusiastic congratulations to the graduates of LCC!! We are especially excited that three of our very own work-study students will be completing their degrees with us this semester: Monique Duran, Marcelino Herrera and Jeremiah Olivas. They leave us to continue their education, and we couldn't be more proud!

2016 came to the Mora Site with a vengeance. We not only had our fair share of snow to contend with, but these past few months we've had to go through the evaluation process as staff develop and implement a performance-improvement plan as well as attend several retention, persistence and completion trainings. These are just fancy ways of saying that we are meeting as a college and asking/answering some tough questions and throwing some fresh ideas on how we can make student's college experiences better so that they can stay and complete their program of study. As our Mission Statement, "Creating Opportunities for You!" promises, we take this commitment seriously, and we strive to make each student's educational journey with us as positive and successful as we can.

All those questions we kept asking students were for our performance-improvement plan. The answers will help us enhance what we've got and what may be needed at the Mora Site to benefit students and improve the services we provide. We have already implemented a couple of things such as launching our very own "college night" which we've done these past two semesters as a mass advisement/registration opportunity as well as a time to enjoy a meal with staff and other students. We plan on continuing this every semester so that the registration process is "fun and easy". We're also offering more ITV courses between the satellites so that courses won't get cancelled due to low enrollment. This is especially crucial for our rural areas because we don't always meet the minimum enrollment requirement. Also, our GED program is back, and students can take advantage of the convenience of having GED classes here at Mora on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

In high school news, the students began their year to new administration/staff-a superintendent, a principal and high school counselor have joined the ranks. We were sad to say goodbye to Mr. Danny Chavez, who retired, and to Ms. Audra Vigil, who transferred back into the classroom. We miss you! But we do welcome Mr. James Gallegos, Superintendent, Ms. Loretta Griego, Principal and Ms. Lisa Yescas, Counselor, who have hit the ground running and are working diligently with LCC to continue our goal in providing the best opportunities to the students of Mora High



What's going on in Mora...Cont...



School. And how about these students who make me look good?! I am so proud of the class of 2016!

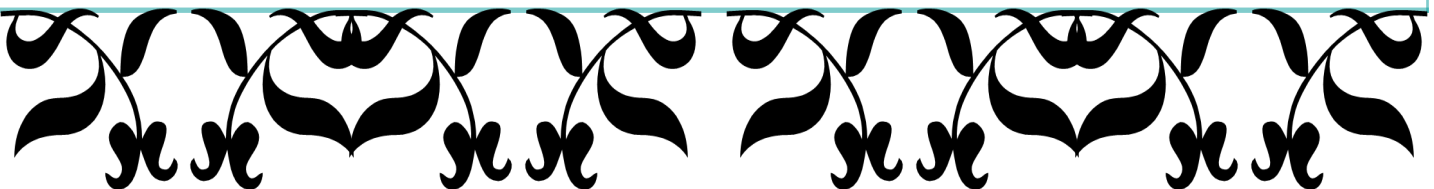
This year I am so ecstatic This year I am so ecstatic to announce that seven of these high school students will be receiving their General Education Certificates on May 14th from LCC. And for the first time ever, three (!) of the seven will be receiving their AGS in General Studies. Congratulations to:

Derrick Bustos-General Education Certificate/General Studies AGS
Andrea Martinez- General Education Certificate/General Studies AGS
Mia Martinez-General Education Certificate
Ambrozia Medina-General Education Certificate
Destiny Romero-General Education Certificate
Havenlee Sandoval- General Education Certificate/General Studies AGS
Fidel Valdez-General Education Certificate

Many of the seniors who took courses with LCC plan on continuing their education. We hope to see many familiar faces in the halls on main campus! We've also discussed with incoming juniors and seniors the advantage of taking Luna summer courses; therefore, many have come in to COMPASS assess and begin their higher-educational experience with us.

Many great things continue to happen at the Mora Site, and we are both saddened and proud to see many of our students graduate and move onto their next adventure.

**CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2016**





STEM Students Explore Possibilities



By Francisco Apodaca, STEM Director

VISITNG ENMU—Top L to R: Davi Mondragon, Jose Mondragon (LCC Alumni and current ENMU students)

Bottom L to R: Nicole Collins LCC Computer Instructor and Advisor, Jeremiah Olivas, JaMarcus Trujillo, Brittney Mares, Betsy Sanchez (LCC Math and Pre-Engineering Instructor and Advisor)



LCC—The People’s College!

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) students have been busy visiting New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro (New Mexico Tech) on April 6, and to Eastern New Mexico University in Portales on April 20. The students visited the two campuses to give STEM students a look at the respective universities and see what STEM-education opportunities they had to offer our LCC students.

The New Mexico Tech visit was offered to LCC students who were STEP program participants. The overnight visit included stops at classes, a visit to the New Mexico Bureau of Mines Mineral Museum, and a complete campus tour, including the dormitories. While on the Socorro campus, LCC students participated in voting for the best student project presentations at Tech’s Annual Student Symposium. Titia Barham, NM Tech’s Transfer and Articulation Specialist, escorted the students on campus and provided them with valuable information about Tech’s programs and student life.

On April 20, STEM students visited Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) where they toured the campus in Portales. While at ENMU, the students were given information regarding financial aid, transfer processes, and general campus information. Dr. Brian Pasko, Professor of Mathematics, presented information regarding mathematics and the AMP program at ENMU and encouraged students to continue their education and attain a four year degree.

LCC’s STEM Department encourages students to visit other campuses and provides information about academic programs and STEM employment opportunities. As the LCC Stem Director, I think it is important for our students to find out about furthering their education and learn about the potential employment opportunities that a STEM career can provide. We think that LCC provides a vital link to students’ futures, by facilitating trips and exploring STEM activities in New Mexico.

TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY COMING SOON—

Details to come later!!!