

# Luna's 2018 graduation to be held at Media Arts Auditorium

The Luna Community College graduating class of 2018 will be making history on Saturday, May 12—they will be the first to graduate at the new Media Arts Auditorium.

Construction for the auditorium, which was the second phase of the building, began in January of this year. It includes 750 fixed seats and 450 removable seats. The 1,200-seat capacity is believed to be among the largest, publicly owned venues in northern New Mexico. The total square footage of the Media Arts Center is 38,000 square feet.

The auditorium is equipped with a state-of-the-art sound system and theatrical lighting. A control room for both sound and lighting is located in the back of the auditorium. Located in the front of the auditorium is a 65 feet wide by 10 feet deep stage. The seating is a school-color teal with the carpet black, charcoal grey and teal.

Luna Physical Plant Manager Matthew Cordova said the total cost of the Media Arts Center is \$10,320,000. Funding for the Media Arts Center came through severance tax and general obligation bonds.

Construction began 12 years ago and the first phase of the Media Arts Center was finished in November 2011. In addition to the auditorium, the facility houses classrooms, offices, an atrium and studios.

“There is a lot of excitement around Luna,” said Cordova. “There is a feeling of accomplishment among both students and staff. There are so many people to thank for this project from area legislators, the legislative finance committee, to the capital projects committee and especially the voters that passed general obligation bonds.”

Cordova said that Luna has held graduation in a tent for at least the



**Luna Community College 2018 spring graduates will be the first class to utilize the Media Arts Auditorium. The auditorium has a 1,200 seating capacity.**

last 15 years. Before that, graduation was held in an open area at the college.

“I am extremely grateful to Luna for completing our new

auditorium in which we will be able to hold our 2018 graduation ceremonies,” says Luna Student Senate President, Jessica Weber. “I am even more excited to be among the first graduating class to utilize this beautiful new auditorium.”

The auditorium will also be used for community events. The current policy for use of facilities is a request has to go through the physical plant and then needs approval from the president.

The guest speaker for this year's graduation is Dr. Esmael Valdez, who has owned Divine Dental Centre in Las Vegas since 2004 and Divine Dental out of Santa Fe since 2007. Dr. Valdez was born and raised in Mora and graduated from Mora High School in 1993. In 1999, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree from New Mexico Highlands University. In 2003, Dr. Valdez earned his doctoral degree from Howard University, College of Dentistry.

The Luna graduation will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 12. Student check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with a 9 a.m. line up.



**Dr. Esmael Valdez**

**#LCCmatters**