

The Luna Light



*“The People’s College”
Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America*

Volume 3 Issue 9

Special Edition-February 24

Education equates to jobs



Luna Community College vocational students Kelina Powell, Jonathan Urioste, Adolfo Bachicha, Gary Gamertsfelder, Jeremiah Gutierrez and Ricardo Baca are pictured here with a 1976 Chevy Pick Up that they will tune and dress up and raffle off to offset costs for an upcoming SkillsUSA Competition. LCC students, along with students across other state two-year colleges, are concerned about budget cuts.

Like many rural community college students from New Mexico, Jonathan Urioste simply goes to school to provide a better life for himself and his family.

But like many students in higher education, he keeps up with the statewide budget crisis and he is asking legislatures to keep students like him in mind as they develop a budget during the special session which begins early next week.

“I am currently unemployed and if it wasn’t for Luna Community College, I probably wouldn’t be in school,” says Urioste, an automotive technology ma-

jor. “Our college doesn’t charge an arm and a leg to come to school here. And our environment affords me time to have one-on-one instruction with my instructors. There are a lot of us that can’t afford to go to a four-year college and it’s important that our resources remain intact. Many students here get their basics covered at an inexpensive cost and we’re getting the best quality of education possible. But I’m not sure if we can afford any more budget cuts in this department and across campus.”

Urioste feels that now is the time to step up education more than ever.

“We need educational resources to stay intact. By us getting an education and becoming marketable, in turn it will boost the economy,” says Urioste.

Adolfo Bachicha, who was recently laid off work, said that going to a community college is just what he needed at this time of his life.

“I’ve always wanted to learn how to paint cars,” says Bachicha, who is currently enrolled in automotive collision repair classes. “I will graduate now in May and I plan to come back and get my associate’s degree. I pay only about \$375 a semester, the cost is reasonable. I know that many of us wouldn’t want to see a tuition increase.”

Kelina Powell says that community colleges deserve the same respect as four-year schools.

“I think this college is better than a university, because not only do we study theory, but we also get hands-on training,” says Powell who is also majoring in automotive technology. “Here we have a better student-instructor ratio. Luna Community College has been great.”

The trio along with several other students from LCC, will be competing in a statewide SkillsUSA Competition from March 25-27 in Albuquerque and they feel they can bring back several first-place medals.

“I know we can compete with other colleges from New Mexico and across the nation,” says Powell.

They have been fundraising over the last several months. They intend to fix up and raffle a 1976 Chevy Pick Up that was donated to them. LCC will provide transportation to and from the event. The students have to raise money for registration and room and board for the three-day event.

All first-place finishers compete at nationals in June.

New Mexico Community Colleges provide essential services in tough times

New Mexico's community colleges are working hard to provide job training for the state workforce of the future, including jobs in the "green economy", health care, hi-tech business and industry.

Thousands of additional students have flocked to community colleges during this recession. Enrollment was up by more than 3,000 FTE (nearly eight percent) during FY09 and looks to be up by even a greater amount in the current academic year. Community colleges have responded by expanding programs and course offerings in an effort to meet student demand and to help kick-start our state economy.

Even though our enrollments have increased substantially, state general fund support for higher education has been reduced significantly during the past two years from nearly \$885 million in the original FY09 budget to \$797 million in the FY11 House version of HB-2 or about \$778 million in the Senate version – decreases of 10 to 12 percent during a period of rapidly increasing demand for vital educational services.

To preserve the ability of the New Mexico's post-secondary institutions to meet the educational and job-training needs of our state's citizens during this economic crisis, community colleges request that the executive and legislative branches of government consider the following points during the upcoming special session:

- Recognize that higher education institutions—and especially community colleges—are key players in the state's efforts to rebuild a strong economy that provides good jobs for our

students and their families. Higher education should be viewed very favorably as the state allocates available resources.

- Reductions to employee compensation as proposed in the Senate version of the budget would be very demoralizing to higher education employees who are already being asked to extend themselves to serve more students with far fewer resources. Educational employees are already picking up a greater share of educational retirement contributions as a result of legislation enacted during the 2009 session.
- The "sanding" of Instruction and General appropriations as proposed in both the House and Senate versions of the FY11 budget should be minimized. Sanding of these appropriations withdraws resources from the core functions of the institutions. This is especially difficult when no state resources have been provided to address fixed cost increases within higher education in areas such as insurance and utilities.
- Tuition increases should be kept to a minimum during periods of economic crisis. Most students are struggling with financial issues in their personal lives which are only exacerbated when the cost of college attendance rises suddenly and dramatically.

Community colleges remain committed to providing the best possible educational services to our students and our communities. We will use state and local resources as efficiently as we can to fulfill this mission.

Luna Community College lends students a hand

By Donna Flores

LCC Vice-President of Finance

Luna Community College operates with minimum staff, with functions run by one staff person. We have already absorbed additional duties across the campus when vacancies have occurred. We have utilized adjunct faculty more and more. However, while moving programs to certifiable levels and upgrading equipment we cannot sustain further cuts without affecting the quality of the offerings.

LCC serves a beautifully unique population that after going through our programs will be employable citizens in areas where the economy is still in need of skilled workers. Many of our students have grown up in the most rural areas of northern New Mexico and have come to see LCC as trusted partner to move them on to a higher education. Without LCC's services many would not have the confidence to take that step.

LCC has always spread its resources thin

in order to meet all the needs of a college. LCC has invested much in easing the statewide nursing shortage and most recently reallocated resources to the trades and technology areas to coincide with trends in industry.

LCC has kept its tuition low while raising the bar in educational quality. We do not give students a hand-out but a hand. Our goal is to meet that critical need by allowing us to keep our original level of funding which was based on the statewide formula.

Quote of the Week

"I am currently unemployed and if it wasn't for Luna Community College, I probably wouldn't be in school,"—Jonathan Urioste, Luna Community College student.

Luna CC Student Services budget cuts

By Mary Medina

LCC Vice-President of Student Services

The Luna Community College Student Services Division oversees Office of the Registrar's Dual Credit/Concurrent Enrollment Office, Office of Financial Aid, Office of Institutional Research, Office of Admissions and Recruitment, ACCESS Center, Learning Resource Center/Library, Athletics Department, Public Relations Office, and Title V Distance Education.

During the past few weeks, all departments have held budget hearings to submit operational needs and prioritize those needs in light of the fact that LCC's state revenues have been reduced by approximately \$900,000 over a two-year period.

As part of the cost saving measures, student services departments will have to do more with less and will have to become creative in the delivery of services. Departments have cut expenses related to travel, training, printing of schedules, printing of grade mailers, equipment, advertising and media buys, supplies and materials, and professional services contracts. Some departments have reduced their budgets by

up to 50 percent over the prior year's budget.

Not advertising/hiring of vacant positions as staff retire or resign their positions are viewed as another cost saving measure. This option saves the institution thousands of dollars, but increases workload for staff being assigned the additional duties in order to ensure that services to students remain uninterrupted. These measures impact very loyal and hard-working employees. Lots of office and department cross-training as well as peer collaboration will be a must in order to ensure that our departments do not falter with requirements. Every effort is being made to address cuts in strategic ways to determine if we can find the necessary savings by changing our structure or practices.

Luna Community College administration continues to research several tactics and every cost saving measure in an effort to avoid cuts to salaries and personnel. Currently, student services directors feel that their budgets are as trim as they can get. Further cuts will cause some "serious wounds" within departments which will impact services students need and are deserving of.



Luna Community College dental assistant students are learning oral dental charting while practicing oral evaluations. Pictured here are Angelique Marquez doing an evaluation on Roberta Fernandez. Hands-on learning is a vital part of LCC education.

LCC: "The People's College"

Luna Community College Student Government President Danyelle Romero: our college is important to us

The following is message from Danyelle Romero, Luna Community College Student Government President. She was recently named an ex-officio member of the LCC Board of Trustees.

The majority of our students here at Luna Community College come from a poverty or rural area. For many of our students, Luna Community College is their last chance to get an education. We also have many non-traditional and single parent students.

Keep in mind that if even one department suffers budget cuts it will affect our many areas of our student population. Luna Community College has always prided itself in affordable tuition and it is imperative that we keep it that way.

It is also important to keep our faculty and staff in mind. Like many New Mexicans, they appreciate and need their jobs.

I am asking lawmakers to keep our college resources intact as education should always be at the forefront.

Budget cuts will impact Springer Satellite

By Louise Portillos

LCC Springer Satellite Director

New Mexico is in a budget crisis and Luna Community College is no exception. If budget cuts actually occur, the LCC-Springer Satellite will probably be affected by losing some positions, curtailing of supplies for classroom training and travel for staff, a reduction in maintenance supplies for the plant maintenance, etc. This in turn could probably affect student enrollment due to lack of funding.

Some cost saving measures that were implemented immediately at the Springer Satellite a couple of months ago were:

- Employees were instructed to turn off all lights when not in use.
- Control thermostat settings—keep settings down or off when rooms are not being used. Encourage staff and students to dress warmer.
- Equipment and Supplies – DO NOT order unless absolutely necessary. If possible, service equipment instead of purchase.
- Cut down on number of Xeroxing. This would save on paper and toner.



Luna Community College's Springer Satellite.

- Travel (reduce) —have meetings via ITV. I believe the proposed cuts would not only devastate our course and program offerings, but they would also hurt our ability on how we deliver our curriculum.
- There is no question that budget cuts are going to be detrimental to our operation. I think we have some really tough times ahead.

LCC: “The People’s College”

Budget cuts would affect the way classes are taught at LCC-Mora Site



Luna Community College—Mora Site.

**By Wanda Martinez
LCC-Mora Site Director**

Budget cuts that seemed to be looming too far in the horizon for a community college, has come at an increasingly alarming rate. We tend to stay “comfortably numb” when a recession hits because coming from a poor county, we already live that way. What is dire

for the rest of the nation tends to be thought of as just another day in a small community.

But the fact is that budget cuts have reared its ugly head in the educational field and the Mora Site is not an exception. Though no one wants to hear those words especially when it comes to the education of all students, it is a necessary evil. I think Mora is more fortunate

**By Lawrence Quintana
LCC Human Resources Director**

Luna Community College, along with other educational institutions, will be impacted by the budget deficit being proposed at the New Mexico Legislature.

The Luna Community College Leadership Advisory Team and department directors have been looking at various avenues to establish a balanced budget. Several avenues that may impact employees will include some of following actions or a combination of some of the following actions: Reduction in force, salary cuts, reorganization, furloughs and realignment of duties.

Departments have just finished their budget hearings, and dependent upon the amount of funding that has been cut from the department budgets will provide some information that will indicate how much of a gap will have to be met through various other budget savings. Information is being

gathered to understand where efficiencies will play a role and where operating weaknesses must be improved to reduce operational costs. Employees must be aware of their environment and do their share in realizing some of the ways that this institution will implement to overcome the deficit.

How will the school’s values be utilized to overcome the deficit while at the same time promote student achievement and support employee performance? It is important that all employees work collectively to develop supportive cultures that enable employees to coordinate efforts to improve the school. Use words to solve problems that include “we” and “our” instead of “I” or “my.”

than the other satellites because it is a relatively new site and the impact of current budget cuts will be minimal, but by no means less important.

The bulk of my budget is for adjunct faculty, so budget cuts would affect how classes will be conducted in Mora. Instead of adjunct faculty teaching “live”, we would rely more on ITV courses being transmitted from the main campus and the other satellites. We have actually begun the process by “sharing” instructors through ITV, and coordinating our courses so that we can maximize what we do have. We would also be utilizing online courses even more. I know that we need to “tighten the belt”, but my goal is to continue the course offerings by any means so that students will not have any interruption in their academic goals or have to travel to main campus.

In the daily operations of the David Cargo Library, we will continue as we have done thus far. I have been fortunate that the community has been patient and supportive with the “honor system” we have set up for checking out the books. I think the fact that Mora has a library again has overshadowed the system, so this works well. We already have public computers that are utilized daily and people donate books regularly, so budget cuts will not have an impact on the library for now.

We must confront negativity head on, and focus our efforts toward professional collaboration, affiliative and collegial relationships and efficacy or self-determination. Together we must overcome this dilemma through a positive and supportive school culture.

**Facing
a deficit
through
a positive
culture**

The impact

By Dr. Pete Campos
LCC President

It felt so good to walk into the president's office at Luna Community College last Friday morning. Ms. Elaine Luna and Ms. Maria Paiz had laid out a Luna Community College Rough Rider baseball cap on the corner of a table with some fresh fruit for me to munch on because they both knew I eat very irregularly. Although I didn't fully express it, I was very grateful for their thoughtfulness.

A little later, I walked up to one of the full length windows in the office, gazed out and saw students getting out of their cars to attend classes. My heart was torn, my eyes watered and I could not forgive myself for returning home without a completed state budget.

What really got to me was watching one young man, in what looked like an unsafe vehicle get out without a jacket in frigid temperatures and run into the building where his class was held and to see a young lady getting out of the passenger side of a small car with a baby and a young man. In both cases, the young students seemed to be truly sacrificing, attending classes in well worn clothes and struggling to make their lives better.

I haven't been able to free these visuals from my mind! My thoughts have been simmering around the genuine opportunity we are providing students. Affordable tuition, academic programs that pro-



Luna Community College President Dr. Pete Campos looks outside his office window recently.

vide rigor and choice, instructors who really care and are providing individualized and encouraging guidance, tutoring, personal attention so students will succeed and most importantly, *hope so students will develop the confidence and ability to get a job, raise their families and evolve into adults who have earning power and self worth.*

What is really eating away at me is that deeper cuts in education may only burst the aspirations and dreams of the students who have chosen Luna Community College for their education. The possibility of higher unaffordable tuition, loss of classes and programs that are geared towards helping students get their first jobs, downsizing the institution's offerings and watching employee's morale drop or students having no other choice but to drop out of school **are not options.**

In fact, we have spent the last eighteen months reorganizing, streamlining and focusing on efficiencies in our educational operations. Further revenue cuts will now go beyond the bone and will cut into the marrow. In other words, much deeper revenue cuts will become counterproductive to our educational mission. *As Aristotle, a famous philosopher so eloquently stated, "A likely impossibility is always preferable to an unconvincing possibility." I know we will never give up on our students!*

LCC:

"The People's College"

Will budget cuts affect the physical plant?

By Ron Gonzales/LCC Physical Plant Director

Lets' start with the Building Renewal and Replacement Fund—this funding has never been funded at 100 percent at the state level and we now know that this funding is being cut back. This means less money for renovations or major maintenance repairs to Luna Community College buildings and grounds. Also being cut is the Equipment Renewal and Replacement Fund that means less equipment replacement at all levels.

With regards to I&G funding cuts to the Luna Community College Physical Plant, which encompasses security, safety, transportation, grounds maintenance, technical maintenance, custodial and facility

scheduling, in the past year the department has cut three employee positions and supply funding in anticipation of cuts from the state. The department through the employee classification done in the leveling has been able to shift staff around to be able to keep up with the needs of the campuses, although sometimes difficult. At this time I would like to publicly thank my staff, for stepping up to meet the challenge by taking on additional duties to provide a safe, clean and comfortable environment for our students. With further cuts expected to come in the new fiscal year we are re-evaluating where more savings can be attained. We are going to have to do more with less. Since the

Continued on page 8

8-Week Course Schedule

| Course # | Sec. | Cr. Hrs | Title | Days | Dates | Times | Campus | Instructor |
|----------|------|---------|-------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------------|
| ASE101 | 4 | 3 | Introduction to Renewable Energy | TR | 02/23/10 --05/07/10 | 5:00pm -- 7:15pm | Main | Jencka, D |
| BIO103E | 1 | 2 | Medical Terminology (DL) | WF | 03/10/10 - 05/07/10 | 4:00pm -- 5:50pm | EWEB | Roybal, E |
| BIO103E | 3 | 2 | Medical Terminology (DL) | M | 03/08/10 - 05/07/10 | 1:00pm -- 5:00pm | EWEB | Olson, S |
| BIO210E | 2 | 3 | Nutrition (DL) | WR | 03/10/10 - 05/07/10 | 9:00am -- 11:50am | EWEB | Olson, S |
| BUS105E | 2 | 3 | Introduction to Business | TR | 03/09/10 -- 05/07/10 | 5:30pm -- 8:40pm | EWEB | Thomas, G |
| CS130 | 2 | 4 | Introduction to Networking | MW | 02/22/10 -- 05/07/10 | 5:30pm -- 7:45pm | Main | Staff |
| CS130L | 2 | 0 | Introduction to Networking Lab | F | 02/26/10 -- 05/07/10 | 5:30pm -- 8:30pm | Main | Staff |
| CS240 | 2 | 4 | Computer Science II | TR | 02/23/10 --05/07/10 | 11:00am -- 1:05pm | Main | Staff |
| CS240L | 2 | 0 | Computer Science II Lab | T | 02/23/10 --05/07/10 | 5:00pm -- 7:50pm | Main | Staff |
| CSA101 | 2 | 1 | Introduction to the Internet | S | 02/20/10 --02/27/10 | 9:00am -- 5:00pm | Main | Romero, F |
| CSA106 | 1 | 1 | Introduction to Quickbooks | S | 03/06/10 --03/13/10 | 8:00am -- 4:00pm | Main | Vega, Tana |
| CSA118 | 1 | 1 | Introduction to Mirosoft Publisher | S | 02/06/10 -- 02/13/10 | 9:00am -- 5:00pm | Main | Garcia, R |
| CSA126 | 1 | 1 | Intermediate Quickbooks | S | 03/27/10 --04/10/10 | 8:00am -- 4:00pm | Main | Vega, Tana |
| CSA150E | 4 | 3 | Computer Fundamentals | TR | 03/09/10 -- 05/07/10 | 6:00pm -- 9:50pm | EWEB | Wolff, L |
| CSA150 | 5 | 3 | Computer Fundamentals | MF | 03/08/10 -- 05/07/10 | 9:00am -- 12:50pm | EWEB | Staff |
| CUL107 | 1 | 1 | Current Topics in Food Safety | T | 03/09/10 - 05/07/10 | 9:00am -- 10:50am | Main | O'Brien, A |
| DTEC109 | 2 | 3 | Intro to Architectural Drafting | R | 02/25/10 -- 05/07/10 | 4:00pm -- 8:30pm | Main | Ortega, L |
| DTEC208 | 2 | 3 | Plane Surveying | R | 02/25/10 -- 05/07/10 | 5:30pm -- 8:20pm | Main | Winston, T |
| DTEC208L | 2 | 0 | Plane Surveying Lab | S | 02/27/10 -- 05/07/10 | 9:00am -- 11:50am | Main | Winston, T |
| ELEC196 | 2 | 4 | Solid State and Active Devices | T | 02/23/10 -- 05/07/10 | 5:30pm -- 9:15pm | Main | Garcia, J |
| ELEC196L | 2 | 0 | Solid State and Active Devices Lab | R | 02/25/10 -- 05/07/10 | 5:30pm -- 8:30pm | Main | Garcia, J |
| ELEC209 | 2 | 4 | Microprcsr Design & Interfacing | TF | 02/23/10 -- 05/07/10 | 8:00am -- 9:50am | Main | Garcia, J |
| ELEC209L | 2 | 0 | Microprcsr Design & Interfacing Lab | R | 02/25/10 -- 05/07/10 | 8:00am -- 10:59am | Main | Garcia, J |
| ENG104 | 5 | 3 | Grammar Usage and Writing | MT-R | 03/08/10 - 05/07/10 | 2:00pm -- 3:50pm | Main | Nolan, J |
| ENG111E | 21 | 3 | Freshman Comp I (DL) | TR | 03/09/10 -- 05/07/10 | 6:00pm -- 8:50pm | EWEB | Otto, K |
| ENG115E | 21 | 3 | Freshman Comp II (DL) | MW | 03/08/10 -- 05/07/10 | 3:30pm -- 6:20pm | EWEB | Goodyear, S |
| MS215E | 1 | 3 | American Military History (DL) | MTWRF | 03/08/10 -- 05/07/10 | 12:00pm -- 1:00pm | EWEB | Montoya, M |
| PE117 | 1 | 1 | Kickboxing and Step Combo | MT-R | 03/08/10 -- 05/07/10 | 1:00pm -- 2:10pm | Main | Marr-Montoya, L |
| POLS151 | 1 | 3 | American National Government | TR | 03/09/10 -- 05/07/10 | 9:00am -- 11:50am | Main | Garcia, T |
| POLS167R | 30 | 3 | State and Local Government (ITV) | TR | 03/09/10 -- 05/07/10 | 1:00pm -- 3:10pm | SROSA | Garcia, T |
| POLS167T | 1 | 3 | State and Local Government (ITV) | TR | 03/09/10 -- 05/07/10 | 1:00pm -- 3:10pm | Main | Garcia, T |
| PSYC101E | 20 | 3 | Introduction to Psychology (DL) | MW | 03/08/10 -- 05/07/10 | 6:30pm -- 9:20pm | EWEB | Robbins, J |
| PSYC242E | 2 | 3 | Developmental Life Span (DL) | WR | 03/10/10 -- 05/07/10 | 6:00pm -- 8:50pm | EWEB | Hughes, R |

The loss of an opportunity!

When you hear of budget cuts, people have different reactions. For some, it means loss of job or furloughs. For others, it means a cut in pay or more job responsibilities, but for most people, particularly students, it means the loss of an opportunity.

The loss of an opportunity will have a direct impact on LCC students, especially students that come from disadvantaged communities and who are classified as poor. Furthermore, budget cuts may affect LCC students in the following manner:

- Availability of class offerings
- Program cuts
- A increase in student fees
- Student services
- Quality instruction

This information was provided by LCC Vice-President for Academics Dr. Vidal Martinez.

Physical plant...

Continued from page 7

physical plant is for the most part a service department, cuts will definitely affect the department. We will have to become more proficient and innovative on how we do our jobs to deliver services to our students.

I had a conversation a couple of months ago with a colleague and he stated that the cuts thus far were cutting the fat and I told him I didn't think so. The cuts were already at the meat. He advised me that the cuts were going to go to the bone. I have to admit he was right.

LCC:
"The People's College"

First Annual V-Martinez Short Story Competition

Writers of short stories (fiction) are encouraged to enter the 2010 *First Annual V-Martinez Short Story Competition*. The purpose of the competition is to promote, encourage and support the talent of short story writers at Luna Community College.

Prize and Publication

The first-place winner will receive \$150 cash prize and publication of winning story in **The Luna Light**. The second-place winner will receive \$50 cash prize and publication of winning story in **The Luna Light**. The third and fourth place winners will receive honorable mentions in **The Luna Light**.

Eligibility Requirements

Short stories must be original unpublished fiction, typed and double-spaced, and may not exceed 3,000 words in length. There are no theme restrictions.

Who may submit?

The competition is open only to Luna Community College Students whose fiction has not appeared in any publications.

Submission Requirements

Submissions must be sent to Dr. Vidal Martinez. Writers can submit no more than two entries.

The author's name should not appear on the short story. Stories will be judged anonymously by a panel of judges. Each story must be accompanied by a separate cover sheet with the writer's name, mailing address, phone number, title of story, and the word count. Short stories will not be returned.

Deadline for Entry

Friday, April 16, 2010. Entries after April 16th will not be accepted.

Announcement of Winners and Honorable Mentions

Winners and honorable mentions will be announced during the month of May, 2010. For more information, please contact Dr. Vidal Martinez at 505-454-5378