Luna Community College’s Title V Mission:
“Developing a comprehensive online learning network for rural, time and place-bound students.”

A successful NCA focus visit

The Higher Learning Commission visited Luna Community College on Nov. 8 - 9th. The purpose of this visit was to assess Luna’s readiness to offer more than 50 percent of any degree or certificate program via distance education modalities. This peer review was performed by Dr. Kim Linduska, executive vice president of academic affairs at Des Moines Area Community College and Dr. Pam Stinson, dean of instruction at Northern Oklahoma College. Early indications from visiting peer-reviewers indicated a positive outcome.

This June, a change to Higher Learning Commission policy went into affect lowering the requirement for HLC approval of distance education programs from 100 percent delivery via distance education to 50 percent. Currently, Luna has 10 degree programs that exceed the fifty percent mark of courses offered online or through interactive television (ITV). This is why the focus visit was requested.

Title V has facilitated the development or redevelopment of 33 courses for online delivery and has trained 24 instructors in the latest course development and online delivery techniques.

In the fall 2010 semester, 386 online students were contacted as part of our preemptive technical support initiatives. This is a large increase from the fall 2007 semester of 336 online students as indicated in the Title V grant submission. Since our service area is inclusive to remote and rural areas, distance education has been very beneficial to these areas. Online courses have had a steady increase in number of participants, even with institutional enrollment rates fluctuating due to hard economic times.

It is the mission of Title V to educate northern New Mexico by offering courses to enhance job effectiveness, provide educational opportunities to students who might not otherwise be able to get an education, and help all students gain in knowledge and critical thinking skills.

Title V Staff
Lorraine Martinez, Project Director
Michelle Bencomo, Administrative Assistant
Larry Paiz, Instructional Designer
John Tiernan, Online Student Services Developer
Rick Roybal, Distance Education Technician

Point - To - Ponder
"Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure." - Confucius