

The Luna Light



Volume 2 Issue 17

“The People’s College”

Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America

Special Graduation Edition

LCC graduate serves as inspiration to her family



Patricia Tapia, a native of El Curuco, receives a congratulatory handshake from Vice-President of Academics Dr. Vidal Martinez during the graduation ceremony. Tapia received her AA degree in teacher education.

Life hasn’t been easy for Patricia Tapia. But like a steady stream, hope and ambition flows from her heart.

Tapia, 45, recently graduated with an AA degree in teacher education from Luna Community College. And it was with courageous determination that she was able to accomplish this goal. Tapia, suffers from diabetes and high blood pressure and is blind from her right eye. She doesn’t see well from her good eye either, but an operation later this summer could change that.

“I’ve been going to Luna Community College off-and-on for the last four years,” said Tapia. “It was really difficult for me, working full time and not being able to read the words in a textbook because of my eyesight. One of the last classes I took was tough—it was psy-

chology, because of all the reading, but my professor was really good to me.”

Tapia graduated with several dozen family members in attendance.

“It was important, especially for my nieces and nephews to see if I could go to school and do well, they could to. I want to be a role model for them. I tell them all the time that it’s important to get an education, because without one they’re never going to get a good job,” says Patricia.

Perhaps no one was prouder than her mom Odilea.

“I felt like crying when I saw her get her diploma,” says Odilea. “After everything she’s been through, it was a very special moment for all of us. We weren’t sure if she was going to finish or not, we all told her it was up to her. The photo of her shaking hands with Dr. Martinez

(Vidal) will always be in my living room as a reminder of all her struggles and determination.”

But her AA degree could very well be the beginning of one of her dreams—to someday have her own elementary classroom. Should her next operation be successful and if her eyesight improves, she intends to earn a BA in education from Highlands.

“What can I say, I want to teach, but I have to wait and see what happens. Hopefully my operation goes well,” says Patricia.

She has already caught the attention from one longtime educator.

“I really appreciate all of our graduates, regardless of the hurdles they strive to overcome. Patricia, even during the worst of conditions, has overcome obstacles to achieve one of her goals. She is definitely a role model for others to follow,” says LCC President Dr. Pete Campos.



Tapia’s parents Odilea and Leonard say that they are very proud of Patricia. They display their daughter’s picture with Dr. Martinez in their living room for everyone to see.

Congratulations 2009

Luna Community College graduates

Adam Anthony Abreu, *Business Administration-AAS Degree, cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Kevin Allen, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Marcel Almanzar, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Bernadette Aragón, *Nursing-AAS Degree, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Raquel Lisa Arellano, *Business Administration-AAS Degree, phi theta kappa*

Francheska Faye Armijo, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*

Kenna Armitage, *Nursing-AAS Degree, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*

George Arthur, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Daisy M. Baca, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*

Valerie M. Baca, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Bobbie Bacca, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Aggie Bachicha, *Criminal Justice-AA Degree, phi theta kappa*

Shalena Bailey, *Nursing-AAS Degree, magna cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Flor T. Balderas, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*

Nichole Barela, *Nursing-AAS Degree, phi theta kappa*

Amy L. Barreras, *Nursing-AAS Degree, cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Decarina Briancesco, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Decarlo Briancesco, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Brigitte K. Buhrkuhl, *Nursing-AAS Degree*

Amanda L. Burch, *Nursing-AAS Degree*

Jamie L. Burdette, *Nursing-AAS Degree, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Maria M. Bustamante, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, cum laude*

Regina Catanach, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, magna cum laude*

Amy L. Cde Baca, *Criminal Justice-Certificate*

Alexandra Chávez, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Andrew D. Chávez, *Liberal Arts-AA Degree*

Charlene Chávez, *Nursing-AAS Degree, magna cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Matthew K. Chávez, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*

Stephanie Sue Chávez, *Nursing-AAS Degree*

Vanessa Joann Chávez, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, phi theta kappa*

Savannah Coca, *Dental Assistant-Certificate*

Kimberly Ann Córdova, *Automotive Technology-Certificate and Welding Technology-Certificate, magna cum laude*

Linda S. Córdova, *Small Business Management-Certificate and Business Administration-AAS Degree*

Matthew V. Córdova, *Small Business Management-Certificate and Business Administration-AAS Degree*

Laurie Cunningham, *Culinary Arts-Certificate, phi theta kappa*

Nicole Dahlquist, *Teacher Education-AA Degree, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Linda Dangberg, *Computer Application Specialist-Certificate, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Louis Delgado, *Nursing-AAS Degree*

Camilia D. Duran, *Early Childhood Multicultural Education-AA Degree, phi theta kappa*

Sybil Dykes, *Nursing-AAS Degree, magna cum laude*

Hope A. Ebell, *Nursing-AAS Degree, magna cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Anjelica E. Espinoza, *Early Childhood Multicultural Education-AA Degree*

Stacey Esquibel, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Christine A. Flores, *Criminal Justice-AA Degree*

Jessica Emily Flores, *Computer Information Systems-AAS Degree, cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Michael R. Flores Jr., *Computer Information Systems-AAS Degree*

Debra S. Gage, *Nursing-AAS Degree*

Daniel M. Galindre, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Amanda Marie Gallegos, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Bennie D. Gallegos, *Nursing-AAS Degree*

James F. Gallegos, *Small Business Management-Certificate and Business Administration-AAS Degree*

Loriann García, *Dental Assistant-Certificate*

Selena Margarita García, *Nursing-AAS Degree*

Selest Araseli García, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*

David F. Garduño, *Nursing-AAS Degree*

Stephen Garrick, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Gerald Gibson, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Brianna R. Gonzales, *Business Administration-AAS Degree*

Clyde G. Gonzales, *Electronics Engineering Technology-AAS Degree, cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Earl Gonzales, *Cosmetology-Certificate*

Eric Isaac Gonzales, *Liberal Arts-AA Degree*

Jessica Angelita Gonzales, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*

Krystyna Leana Gonzales, *Small Business Management-Certificate and Business Administration-AAS Degree*

Shannon Nichole Gonzales, *Nursing-AAS Degree, summa cum laude*

Yolanda Gonzales, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Justeen Griego, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*

Shirley A. Griego, *Small Business Management-Certificate and Business Administration-AAS Degree*

Brittany Hamilton-Tatum, *Nursing-AAS Degree, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Elizabeth Herrera, *Dental Assistant-Certificate*

Vanessa S. Herrera, *Small Business Management-Certificate and Business Administration-AAS Degree*

Jennifer Lynne Himes, *Criminal Justice-Certificate*

Kary E. Hodge, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Laura Leah Hurtado, *Cosmetology-Certificate, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Ashley Nicole Jaramillo, *Cosmetology-Certificate*

Kraig J. Jaramillo, *Culinary Arts-Certificate*

Aaron Jorgenson, *Culinary Arts-Certificate*

Anita M. LeDoux, *Cosmetology-Certificate, phi theta kappa*

Maya A. Levin, *Nursing-AAS Degree, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Monica L. López, *Business Accounting-AAS Degree, cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Robert G. López, *Nursing-AAS Degree*

Tasia C. López, *Business Accounting-AAS Degree*

Valerie López, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Stephanie Lovato, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*

Angelica Lucero, *Criminal Justice-AA Degree*

Nina Lucero, *Nursing-AAS Degree*

Gavin Andrew Lujan, *General Education-Certificate*

RaeDawn D. Lujan, *Dental Assistant-Certificate*

AnnaMarie Lee Maes, *Dental Assistant-Certificate*

Katherine D. Maes, *Cosmetology-Certificate*

Paul Anthony Maes, *Computer Information Systems-AAS Degree*

Shanna L. Maestas, *Business Administration-AAS Degree*

Juanita Renee Manzanares, *Dental Assistant-Certificate*

Lorella L. Manzanares, *Nursing-AAS Degree, magna cum laude, phi theta kappa*

Susan C. Márquez, *Small Business Management-Certificate, summa cum laude, ptk*

Congratulations 2009

Luna Community College graduates

Ashley F. Martínez, *Early Childhood Education-AA Degree*
 Desiree Martínez, *General Education-Certificate, summa cum laude*
 Dominique N. Martínez, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*
 Leah M. Martínez, *Nursing-AAS Degree, phi theta kappa*
 Matthew Martínez, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Shelby Martínez, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Angelica M. Medina, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*
 Barbara Michelle Menchaca, *Cosmetology-Certificate*
 Kathy I. Mendoza, *General Business-AA Degree, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*
 Andrew Montaña, *Electronics Engineering Technology-AAS Degree*
 Elaine Montaña, *Office Administration-AAS Degree*
 Jaelyn R. Montaña, *Nursing-AAS Degree*
 Kristina Meranda Montaña, *Dental Assistant-Certificate, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*
 Rebecca Morales, *Culinary Arts-Certificate, phi theta kappa*
 Catherine A. Moree, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, cum laude, phi theta kappa*
 Christine Nava, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Monique Nava, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Tami Jo Noble, *Nursing-AAS Degree*
 Jonathan Ortega, *Nursing-AAS Degree*
 Arlene Ortiz, *Teacher Education-AA Degree*
 Naomi Ortiz, *Criminal Justice-AA Degree, phi theta kappa*
 Lenore P. Oviedo, *Nursing-AAS Degree*
 Anna Padilla, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, magna cum laude*
 Barbara A. Padilla, *Early Childhood Education-AA Degree and Teacher Education-AA Degree*
 Catherine Francesca Padilla, *Criminal Justice-Certificate*
 Barbara L. Perez, *Dental Assistant-Certificate*
 Joshua Pollack, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Louise L. Portillos, *Liberal Arts-AA Degree and Teacher Education-AA Degree, cum laude, phi theta kappa*
 Betty J. Ray, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*
 N. Jürgen Reinzuch, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*
 Lizabeth Rivera, *Nursing-AAS Degree*
 Ethan Roberts, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Irene Romero, *High School Diploma Equivalency*

Marina E. Romero, *Early Childhood Multicultural Education-AA Degree, summa cum laude*
 Marissa J. Romero, *Nursing-AAS Degree*
 Yolanda M. Romero, *Dental Assistant-Certificate*
 Samuel J. Rosenmund, *Liberal Arts-AA Degree, magna cum laude*
 Brian Saiz, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Adeline May Salas, *Culinary Arts-Certificate*
 Andrew E. Salazar, *Business Administration-AAS Degree*
 Tara Salazar, *Nursing-AAS Degree*
 Christine N. Sánchez, *Criminal Justice-Certificate and Criminal Justice-AA Degree*
 Jennifer D. Sánchez, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*
 Lyrisa Sánchez, *Nursing-AAS Degree*
 Sarah M. Sandoval, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, phi theta kappa*
 Erik Shamas, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Michael E. Smith, *Nursing-AAS Degree, cum laude, phi theta kappa*
 Mario Angelo Solano, *Medical Laboratory Technician-AAS Degree*
 Amanda O. Tapia, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*
 Grace Tapia, *Dental Assistant-Certificate*
 Patricia J. Tapia, *Teacher Education-AA Degree, cum laude*
 Juliet R. Trambley, *Cosmetology-Certificate, magna cum laude, phi theta kappa*
 Jessica Ann Travis, *Electronics Engineering Technology-AAS Degree, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*
 Casandra Trujillo, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Christopher Trujillo, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Jacob Christopher Trujillo, *Drafting Technology-AAS Degree*
 April Ulibarri, *Practical Nursing-Certificate*
 Joshua Unruh, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Vanessa Dominique Valencia, *Dental Assistant-Certificate*
 Adelia Vigil, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, summa cum laude, phi theta kappa*
 Jonathan M. Vigil, *Drafting Technology-AAS Degree*
 Mary Vigil, *High School Diploma Equivalency*
 Karen D. Weathers, *Early Childhood Multicultural Education-AA Degree*
 Steven C. Wells, *Liberal Arts-AA Degree*
 William W. Wilson, *Liberal Arts-AA Degree, magna cum laude, phi theta kappa*
 Andrea I. Yee, *Practical Nursing-Certificate, cum laude, phi theta kappa*



Luna Community College students graduate in the tent below which seats about 1,000 people.





**Luna Community College:
"The People's College"**







