

The Luna Light



“The People’s College”

Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America

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Voters don’t pass Luna CC Bond

Voters within the Luna Community College service area turned down a general obligation bond that included long-range capital improvements which addressed educational and building needs for the main campus, Mora, Springer, Santa Rosa and several rural locations within the college’s authorized service area in northeastern New Mexico. Unofficially, 3,147 people voted against the bond, with 643 voting for it.

The proposed amount of the projects was \$12 million for in-district projects in Las Vegas, Springer, Santa Rosa, Anton Chico, El Valle, Watrous, Mora and Wagon Mound. Out of district projects for Raton, Pecos and Vaughn totaled \$3.5 million. However, funding for Raton, Pecos and Vaughn would have occurred only if these districts were added to the LCC District’s tax base.

“I wish to thank the voters of our service area for participating in this election. The results provide the next step in our direction at Luna Community College. Regardless of the outcome, I will continue to do everything possible to provide the best educational environment for our students and staff,” said LCC President Dr. Pete Campos.

In the LCC Board of Trustees election, incumbent Tony Valdez won District 2 (Las Vegas-based) with 225 votes. Marsha Archuleta had 171 votes with Tommy Ortiz getting 114 votes.

In District 4 (Santa Rosa-based), Frankie Tenorio beat incumbent Kenneth Flores. Tenorio had 515 votes. Flores had 407.

In District 6 (Springer-based) David Gutierrez beat Robert Portillos. Gutierrez had 306 votes. Portillos had 185. Don Shaw, who held this position, did not seek re-election.



Maria Rita Gonzales of Gonzales Ranch (right) is one of several thousand voters from across the region that participated in the Luna Community College elections held on Tuesday, March 3. Also pictured is Vickie Gonzales, one of the precinct workers at El Valle.



Luna Community College students Dwayne Quintana and Ricardo Baca look over literature from Sandia National Laboratories during the LCC Career/Transfer Fair held at the college on Tuesday, March 3. There were about 50 employer and college booths at the job fair. It was attended by approximately 200 people. The event was sponsored by the LCC Activities Office.



Luna Community College vocational instructors showcase their students skills and talents recently. Pictured (l-r) Gilbert Martinez from collision repair; Pablo Montoya from furniture and cabinet making; Frank Madrid from building trades technologies; Eugene Sandoval from automotive technologies and Anthony Baca from collision repair.



LCC student Candido Darras along with LCC Collision Repair Instructor Anthony Baca display a custom-show bike that was built in the collision repair program.

Quote of the Week

“Winning isn’t everything, but wanting to win is,” —Vince Lombardi .

LCC students send letters to Sen. Bingaman

Dear Sen. Bingaman:

I am a student of Luna Community College currently preparing for the GED examination. The program has been of immense benefit to me and the other students in so many ways. At the moment, the program lacks funding, so I humbly implore you to help us with the funding. I want to thank you for providing us an opportunity to get our education. This will help us get good paying jobs, further our education, help us pay our taxes to the government, and contribute meaningfully to the development of the country.

Valentine Ekeoha

Dear Sen. Bingaman:

I am a seventeen year old teenager from Las Vegas, N.M. Thanks to the GED program at Luna Community College, I am now a GED graduate. Before the GED program, my options were very limited, but now that I’m a graduate the sky’s the limit. The teachers were very kind and helpful. They were patient with all the students, and they believed in us which gave us confidence.

I hope that our government will fund the GED Program at Luna Community College so that more kids like me have a chance at a brighter future.

George Arthur

Luna CC providing free tax services

Luna Community College Business and Professional Studies Individual Taxation Preparation class is providing free tax preparation services to qualified individuals by LCC Accounting Program Student Volunteers.

The free tax service is available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, Saturday, March 14, Saturday, March 21 and Saturday, March 28. Tax preparations will take place at the Department of Business and Professional Studies Building Room 107. Qualifying applicants must not make more than \$40,000. You are also eligible for the service if you are 65 or older.

The tax preparation services is a practical means of giving LCC accounting students work experience in tax preparation while serving a community need.

Individuals are encouraged to bring the following documents: Social Security cards for yourself, your spouse and your dependents; birth dates; form W-2 wage and tax statements from your employer; a bank document with routing and account number for direct deposit; a statement from your care provider with the amount paid, address and tax number if claiming child and dependent care expenses; a list of all itemized deductible expenses; and, if necessary, form W-2G for certain gambling winnings; SSA-1099 Social Security benefits statement and records of all other income received.

“In fulfilling the mission of the college, the Department of Business and Professional Studies Accounting Program students work diligently to provide community services to northeastern New Mexico through the preparation of taxes,” said Luna Community College Business and Professional Studies Director Renee Garcia.

For more information regarding the free tax preparations services call Garcia at 505/454-5327.

LCC: “The People’s College”

DOE determines LCC Title V 100 percent compliant

By Lorraine Martinez/LCC Title V Director

On Dec. 9-10, 2008, Rick Gaona, U.S. Department of Education Program Officer, along with Travis Hill and Jessica Barrett Simpson of the Program Oversight Staff performed an on-site review of the Title V program at Luna Community College. On Feb. 9, I received the report outlining the visit. I am pleased to announce that the results indicate that Title V is 100 percent in compliance with federal guidelines.

Gaona stated in his cover letter: "We would like to express our appreciation for the cooperation extended during the review and the assistance provided by administration and staff at Luna Community College."

The Title V project titled "Developing a Comprehensive Distance Learning Network for Rural, Time and Place-bound Students," aims at creating a distance learning system that promotes student success.

During the process, the on-site reviewers met with the institution's president, six members of Title V staff, a member of the project's Internal Monitoring Team, and the institution's Special Project Fiscal Agent. The interviews conducted and the project records reviewed during the on-site visit indicated the project, after one year, is administered well. Programmatic, administrative and fiscal aspects of the project conform, or exceed, the requirements in the Education Department general administrative guidelines, federal cost principles, and other relevant federal requirements.

The report expressed satisfaction with internal processes created for reporting stating, "the on-site reviewers complied with the Title V project's internal standards and exceeded the requirements set forth in Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)." The reviewers also looked at financial records to ensure that all expenditures were "allowable, allocable, and reasonable" and the Title V Policies and Procedures Manual. The report states that everything satisfies the EDGAR requirements related to grant administration. The report also stated that the financial records demonstrated a high level of detail for each transaction and conformed to EDGAR regulations and institutional policy.

In the report Rick Gaona stated: "Luna Community College is currently up to date with the latest on-line learning software. The student on-line learning lab is completed and twelve (12) faculty (instructors) are trained with on-line teaching techniques. The technological infrastructure is constantly being up-graded in order to keep up with the latest technology. Additionally, LCC created an Internal Monitoring Team (IMT). The IMT, which consists of thirteen indi-

viduals, is in place to ensure the Title V project's adherence to EDGAR regulations. Based on interviews with IMT members conducted by the on-site reviewers, there was institutional and project commitment to adhere to the requirements set forth in the EDGAR regulations governing the Title V funds. The IMT provides an added element to the internal controls, both administrative and financial, of LCC and its Title V project."

While there were no issues on non-compliance, the reviewers were

kind enough to lend their expertise with these types of programs by providing some recommendations to strengthen our grant and our school. The recommendations provided in the report are:

- In order to maintain consistency, Luna Community College (LCC) should institutionalize policy standards for online courses for Title V versus non-Title V. This eliminates having two separate tracks.
- LCC should approach local businesses to tie in scholarships with community services in the area.
- LCC being a two-year college should attempt to partner with other educational institutions in the future. Partnering institutions could benefit by sharing facilities and applying for individual and cooperative grants.
- The Title V staff should attend conferences to network with other colleges and universities to learn what is working or not working at other institutions, and exchange ideas.

• LCC should begin planning for Title V sustainability after the grant is closed out. Plan for the sixth year to sustain what the grant has done.

- The Project Director should educate the college's staff on Title V. Schedule an open house or mandatory training to show the LCC Staff what Title V has done for the community, what it's doing now, and where it plans to go in the future.
- LCC should educate students and staff to communicate by phone, e-mail, or other means available to facilitate the proper flow of information.
- Assign Title V personnel to rural areas to be the first point of contact for questions, comments, or problems. He/she will serve as the liaison between Title V and students in rural areas.

Overall, the evaluation report from the U.S. Department of Education indicates that the students of LCC are benefiting from the array of services that are being offered online and by the courses being offered online by the trained and credentialed instructor.



LCC Title V staff (l-r) Larry Paiz, instructional designer; John Tiernan, online student services developer; Veronica Serna, activity director; Lorraine Martinez, project director; Rick Roybal, distance educational technician and Michelle Montoya, administrative assistant.



LCC Springer Satellite student Jimmy Caldwell examines one of the cylinder heads of a nine-cylinder radial engine with LCC Instructor Bill Jump and J.D. Schmidt, builder of the engine.

Springer satellite students get 9-cylinder engine demonstration

At the request of Bill Jump, automotive technology instructor at Luna Community College's Springer Satellite, Mr. J.D. Schmidt came to demonstrate the nine-cylinder radial engine that he made.

Schmidt personally made all of the components of this engine over a period of three years. The engine runs beautifully with no evidence of vibration at all. This effect was achieved in part by Schmidt carefully sanding and varnishing each propeller so they were perfectly weighted.



Area bank officials recently gave a talk on banking literacy as part of Luna Community College's "A Conversation with the Community." Pictured (l-r) are: Gilbert Vallejos (Bank of Las Vegas), Mike Trujillo (Wells Fargo), Keith Tucker (Community 1st Bank), Dwayne B. Herrera (SECU) and Christine Ludi (SECU).

Blast from the past

Can you guess which LCC employee's baby picture this is? The first person to give the right answer will get a free meal from the LCC Rough Rider Grill. You may enter the contest by e-mailing your answer to jgallegos@luna.edu or calling extension 1200. LCC employees are encouraged to turn in a baby photo of themselves to Jesse Gallegos at the LCC Student Services Building.

Last week's winner: Melissa Lopez
Last week's picture: Michelle Montoya



Still time to register for LCC 8-week courses

A few of the Luna Community College eight-week courses will begin on Saturday, March 7 with the majority beginning on Monday, March 9.

For more information these classes, go to the LCC Website at www.luna.edu or call 505/454-2500.