

The Luna Light



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“The People’s College”

Becoming The Premier Rural Community College in America

Luna CC course offerings driven by curriculum, student demand

**By Dr. Vidal Martinez
Vice-President of Instruction**

One of many crucial roles in the success of Luna Community College students is the availability of course offerings. During this past semester, I conducted an analysis and determined a need for a comprehensive yearly course plan. This plan would be driven by the curriculum and student demand.

With the curriculum, there will be consistency in offering specific courses every fall, spring and summer semes-

ters. This would allow planning to be structured with a systematic process. For example, if Physics I is offered every fall and Physics II offered every spring semester, this would better assist in advisement, retention and academic planning for student success.

With student demand, an interest inventory will be conducted with current students in each program of study with a projection of future students willing to enroll in specific courses. This process will coincide with specific pro-

gram requirements. Furthermore, if students request a specific course that is not currently offered, LCC will make every effort to meet that need, including the delivery of eight-week courses, weekend courses, distant learning or directed courses.

With a comprehensive yearly course plan driven by the curriculum, student demand and proper advisement, Luna Community College is moving forward and becoming premier.



On Jan. 28, Nursing Faculty Member and LCC Student Nursing Association (SNA) Sponsor Jackie Romero-Arguello (holding plaque) became the recipient of the 2008 Hero Award and Outstanding Collegiate Drive Award from United Blood Services. SNA membership pictured are: (back row, l-r) RN student Michael Smith, RN student and SNA President Brittany Hamilton-Tatum, RN student and SNA Vice-President Leah Martinez, Romero-Arguello, RN student Maya Levin and pre-nursing student Ben Casey Encinias. (front, l-r) RN student Hope Ebell, RN student Addie Montoya, RN student Susie Dykes and Allied Health Sciences Director Conni Reichert.

Luna CC participates in Literacy Fair

By Janet Maes/Learning Resource Center Director

Where in Las Vegas could you see Fairies, Pirates and Princesses? At *The Leap for Literacy Fair* held at the Abe Montoya Recreation Center on Jan. 31, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

This was a fun-filled event that was well attended by both young and old and everyone in-between! There were information booths and exhibits by the two Las Vegas school districts as well as area educational, cultural and social services agencies.

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New Mexico Cabinet Secretary of Higher Education Reed Dasenbrock urges individuals to get involved

Note: The following was printed with permission from Laura Mulry, director of communications for the New Mexico Higher Education Department.

Dear Colleagues:

We've heard many times lately that the United States is in the worst fiscal crisis it has experienced since the Great Depression. I believe that this is indeed the case, though the Depression preceded me by a couple of decades, and it is understandable in this situation that time horizons would shorten so that what is happening now seems like the only thing of any importance. But in addition to responding to the challenges of the moment, we also need to be responding to the challenges of the future. Or, to put this slightly differently, the way we respond in the short term to the challenges of the moment has to contain within it the seeds of how we are going to respond over the long term to the challenges of the future.

One of the challenges we face as a nation is how we do pay for all of the foreign oil we consume, and the most serious challenge we face as a planet is how to respond to the global warming that has come about as a result of that very hydrocarbon economy and transportation system. New Mexico has been a leader in this area, not just in searching for the responses to climate change but also in seeing that this response can have in it the seeds for a new economy. Think of how the coal industry drove the industrial economy of the 18th and 19th centuries, first in Britain, and then in states like Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois, then of how the oil industry fueled the growth of Texas and its neighboring states (including New Mexico). If we are to survive on this planet, we will need to develop a rich menu of energy sources beyond coal, oil, and natural gas (though they will continue to be important for a very long time), and those areas that position themselves to be at the center of that new economy will see great benefits from this.

One of the central themes of Governor Richardson's administration has been his hope that New Mexico can be the center of the green energy revolution we need, both by taking advantage of our favorable environment for wind and solar power and by harnessing the intellectual power of the national labs and the research universities. Rapid progress has been made, to the point where the development of green industries in the state has been one of the drivers of the state's economic boom the past few years and a factor in the to-date (knock on wood) comparatively light effect that the recession has had on the state. Last week, the Governor took another step in moving the state in this direction by announcing the formation of a Green Jobs Cabinet led by the Economic Development Department. This will involve a number of state agencies, including the New Mexico Higher Education Department, as well as representatives of private industry and other non-governmental organizations.

Why is this needed and why are we involved? It takes all of the right ingredients to create a successful economic sector. Gathering representatives of all of the key forces in creating a green economy in the state in one place will help enormously in coordinating our efforts.

Higher education is involved because every aspect of a green economy will require a skilled and highly educated workforce. At present, that workforce doesn't really exist yet, because people don't tend to get training for jobs that aren't there. It will need to be in place quickly for the growth of this sector, both here in New Mexico and around the nation, not to be hampered by the lack of people to do the work. A number of our community colleges have degree programs in relevant fields, including the wind training technical program at Mesalands, training in renewable energy, energy efficiency, solar energy, and green building at Santa Fe Community College, natural resources/conservation, solar energy, water quality and wastewater treatment at San Juan College and environmental health, solar energy and biotechnology at CNM, to name a few. However, these pioneering programs need to grow and be complemented by others if the potential New Mexico has to lead in this area is to be realized. GE has already announced that they would like to hire every graduate of the program at Mesalands so we know that this one program at its present size is just a start. For a list of green programs at New Mexico public colleges and universities, visit www.hed.state.nm.us.

A good model here is how the state has worked collaboratively in the past few years to address the nursing shortage. NMHED has played a role in this by administering a special appropriation designed to enhance the ability of public higher education institutions in the state to educate nurses, and our funds have gone to 18 colleges and universities. Our recent report on Nursing Enhancement Programs, available at www.hed.state.nm.us, shows that while the nursing shortage has not been eliminated, we are making progress on this crucial issue. So employers, the state, and individual institutions have worked productively here in order to meet a workforce need crucial for the state's health, and we think the Green Jobs Cabinet will lead to the same productive collaboration in this new emerging area.

What does this have to do with the present moment? Part of what led us to where we are now was that, particularly after the dot com collapse, the nation's strongest economic sector seemed to be the financial sector. Lots of smart people made a lot of money in the financial industry: but the money they made they made, not by making anything, but by moving money around. Perhaps we have realized that we need a real economy as well as (or perhaps in place of) the symbolic economy of the financial markets. If we have some robust economic sectors, both as a state and as a nation, our path out of the current crisis will be much smoother. The new energy economy has to be one of those sectors, and this is where it needs to happen.

Wish us luck. Better yet: get involved.

Sincerely,

Reed Dasenbrock, Ph.D.
Cabinet Secretary

College Night a success for LCC



LCC: "The People's College"



Several Luna Community College employees participated in the 10th Annual College Night recently. Pictured clockwise are: Dr. Andrew Feldman and Dr. Sam Stockett; Donna Flores Medina and Mary Ward; Ron Duran; Denise Fox, Connie Reichert, Annette Weinkauff, Dawna Ortega and Gloria Pacheco and Amanda Tapia and Debbie Trujillo.

LCC participates in Literacy Fair ...

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Young people took part in spelling bees, played games, dressed in costumes, heard stories by children's authors, and listened to Mariachi music.

Luna Community College was well represented by the Learning Resource Center, Adult Basic Education, and Phi Theta Kappa students and their sponsors who set up tables promoting literacy and literacy issues, as well as handouts and registration materials for Luna Community College.

The LRC display included examples of banned books and movies. The community was surprised at the many titles of books and movies

that have been banned throughout history. Titles such as *Harry Potter*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Bless Me*, *Ultima*, and works by Judy Blume, Plato, Aristotle, Shakespeare, and Mark Twain, were just some of the examples of book banning.

Jackie Hampleman, an instructor at the Humanities Department, provided a poster collage of her students' reflections on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s powerful speech, *I Have a Dream*.

Phi Theta Kappa gave out free books and had a fun activity of descriptive words and dictionary meanings. PTK will display the activity sheet from the Literacy Fair and set up a table of free books at the Learning Resource Center to continue the literacy initiative.



The Luna Community College softball team made its debut last Friday. Pictured clockwise are: Director of Humanities Eloy Garcia threw out the traditional opening pitch; MariElena Martinez gets a high five from her teammates and Marissa Navarro (right) has the honor of being the first player ever to officially participate in an LCC Rough Rider softball game.



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: Terri Mares
Last week's picture: Eloy Garcia

