

The Luna Light



"Creating Opportunities for You!"

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Elaine Montaña reaches milestone at Luna

Elaine Montaña has almost seen it all at Luna Community College. You would too if you were to work at the same place for nearly 35 years.

Montaña was one of several dozen Luna employees recognized at a luncheon held at the college Dec. 12. There were plenty of cheers during the recognition ceremony, but loudest by far came when Montaña's name was called. Unlike the other employees who shared the spotlight with someone else for their years of

service with the college, Montaña stood alone when it came to her years of service.

"There have been good times and bad times, but the most important thing is to enjoy your job," says Montaña.

"You have to have a strong foundation. By that I mean you come to work because you can make a difference. I have fun at my job."

Montaña is as an office assistant for the nursing department.

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Elaine Montaña gets a hug from Carolyn Chavez.

Luna to close for winter break

Luna Community College will be closed from Monday, Dec. 17, to Wednesday, Jan. 2, for winter break.

Classes for spring 2019 begin on Monday, Jan. 14, and the last day to add a class is Tuesday, Jan. 22.

For more information on Luna, visit our website at luna.edu or our Facebook page.

Donnie Adkins recently retired as the Luna welding instructor. During his four and half years as an instructor, 165 of Adkins' students earned their American Welders Society (AWS) certification. "Luna provides an opportunity for our young students to develop their skills and find a good job path. I thank Luna for this." Pictured with Adkins is Luna Vocational Education Director Jessica McGee.



Milestone...

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Montaño has long been employed with the nursing department. During her tenure, Montaño has also assisted in the registrar's office, answered phones as the switchboard operator and has even taken minutes for the vice presidents.

"Elaine embodies the energy and enthusiasm of someone who's been on the job for one week," says Luna Interim President Ricky Serna. "She's great at what she does. Elaine is a champion for the college."

Montaño continues to get genuine joy from helping students, and she's helped hundreds.

"I love Luna students — all of them," says Montaño. "Luna would not be Luna without students. I look at them as our customers."

"Elaine kept us organized and on track. Beyond her job she made us feel calm and comforted," says one former student. "She's been a cheerleader for us, the first to celebrate when we pass a test or clear a hurdle. If everyone brought the love for students that Elaine does, this school would have no problem at all."

Montaño has been upstanding outside of work as well, as she took care of her elderly parents during the last years of their lives.

"I appreciate Luna," says Montaño.



Luna Community College's Elaine Montaño sports a poster honoring her 30 years of service. As she rose to accept the recognition in a Dec. 12 luncheon, Montaño got a standing ovation from fellow employees.



Dozens of Luna employees socialize and enjoy holiday music and food during the annual employee recognition luncheon on Dec. 12. In addition to a potluck, the event included presentations recognizing years of service and a "white elephant" ornament exchange. Robert Arrellin found himself the target of multiple ornament steals.

More interviews ahead for Luna presidential vacancy

Luna Community College's Board of Trustees on Dec. 3 took a major step toward filling the school's presidential vacancy.

In order to fulfill its statutory requirement to publish the names of at least five finalists before naming a president, the board has chosen to conduct interviews with semifinalists – those already interviewed by a screening committee that included representation from various campus and community constituencies.

The board will conduct interviews in January, with the list of five finalists to be published for a minimum of 21 days as required by law before final action is taken.

At the Dec. 3 meeting, faculty and staff senate

leadership provided the trustees with a recommendation that they focus on the remaining four finalists, which were identified by the screening committee this past summer. The Board of Trustees agreed with the recommendation; however, Luna's legal counsel reminded trustees of the statutory requirement that a minimum of five finalists be considered in the final selection process.

The original five finalists selected dropped to four when the board's original pick withdrew his name from consideration in November. The four candidates who were originally named as finalists will continue to be considered throughout this process.

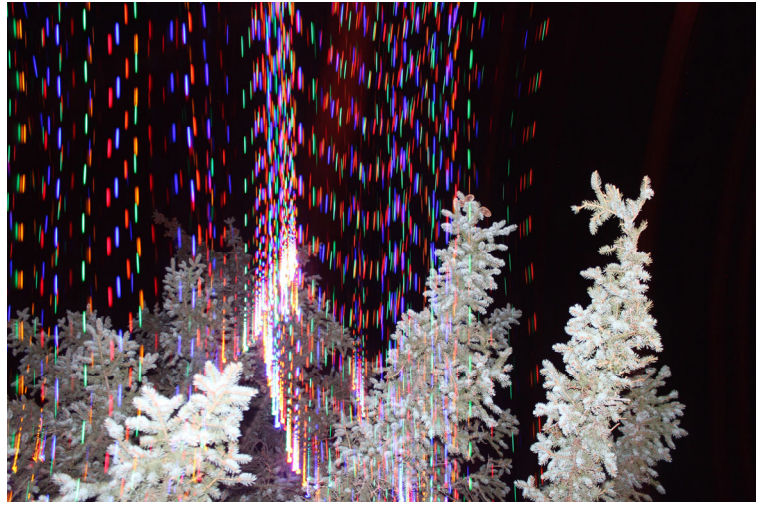
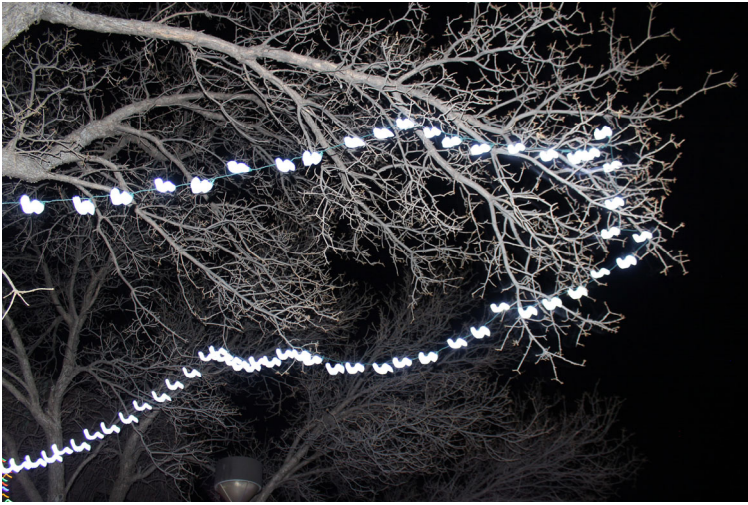
Ricky Serna continues to serve Luna as its interim president.



Congratulations to Luna Community College students Jesus Chavez and Shanaya Pacheco, each of whom won an RCA Notebook/Tablet and wireless mouse during the college's Priority Registration Day on Tuesday, Nov. 27. Registration is ongoing for spring 2019 semester.



Luna's luminarias a lighting success





Approximately 50 students, employees and other community members assisted in Luna's Noche de las Luminarias on Saturday, Dec. 8. Hundreds of visitors turned out for the annual display.



Representatives of Las Vegas' business community join Luna Community College administrators and faculty in "Linking Up With Luna" on Nov. 14 on campus. Pictured is Lowe's Manager Ron Martinez, who pointed out common missteps job applicants make when looking for employment with his store. Insights from employers are part of the potential benefits Luna is hoping to mine from the initiative.



Linking Up With Luna

“Linking Up With Luna,” a recent reception co-hosted by the LCC Staff Advisory Senate and Small Business Development Center, drew representatives of the Las Vegas business community to campus.

The event, held the evening of Nov. 14 at Café de Luna, was intended as a means of developing closer partnerships between the college and area businesses — and building a dialogue that figures to help all involved.

“We look forward to working together to strengthen our relationship with businesses and organizations within the

community,” said Amanda Ortiz, LCC Student Services and Career Services director. “Opportunities await our students, and we are excited for the anticipated collaboration to equip them with the skills they need to enter the workforce.”

Representatives of Luna’s academic and vocational departments were on hand to provide information and answer questions about their programs. After welcoming remarks by LCC Interim President Ricky Serna, several business owners shared their perspectives on what they look for when making decisions on new

hires. LCC Vice President for Instruction Dr. Sharon Lalla encouraged stronger ties between the college and the business community going forward.

The exchange of information and insights could lay the groundwork for not only improved collaborations but the opportunity to help students better prepare for entering the workforce.

Ortiz noted that some advisory boards with representation from both the college and community are being planned as a result, continuing the conversation to benefit both.



Luna’s nursing director Maxine Hughes talks with Lauren Harris, Samaritan House Vista volunteer. Above, Luna Vice President for Instruction Dr. Sharon Lalla addresses the participants in the Nov. 14 gathering.

Tips help with job search

Advice for students and others who are starting the job-search process:

Tap into everyone you know as a potential networking partner. If you are looking for employment, it’s a good idea to let people in your circles know what you are looking for. It may not happen immediately, but they may be able to connect you with an opportunity as it arises, perhaps through a third party.

Do the legwork yourself. Networking is a great way to discover job openings, but employers prefer that applicants take the initiative to follow through and learn more about the opportunities themselves.

Carefully read and follow the instructions that accompany a job announcement. Most employers prefer applicants to communicate

with them in a particular way, which they generally specify in the announcement or want ad.

Develop a well-designed resume that conveys the educational and work experiences that would appeal to the particular employer. Enlist the services of a proofreader to catch errors. Consider your resume to be a working document — store a master version on a computer — and update with applicable experiences. These can include trainings, certifications, internships and volunteer experiences in addition to the typical education and work listings.

Answer all questions on a job application. Write legibly.

Dress to impress when meeting a prospective employer for the first time and when

interviewing for a position. Opt for an outfit that is slightly dressier than the job generally calls for. Pay attention to grooming and personal hygiene, and avoid flashy or revealing clothing and jewelry.

Practice for job interviews with mock interviews, which you can set up with a friend who can play the interviewer. Anticipate commonly asked questions and perfect your answers.

Follow up with thank-you cards or notes to the interviewers. Show your appreciation for their time and consideration.

Editor’s note: Article authors Jesse Gallegos and Dave Kavanaugh are both former career advisers with New Mexico Highlands University.



Luna Community College faculty took part in an in-service the week of Dec. 10. They met on course learning outcomes assessment, academic organization, Higher Learning Commission criteria 3 and 4, general core certification process, disability forms and procedures, assessment, tutoring and campus life.



Luna criminal justice instructor Jason Killian recently presented a second professional paper in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the 8th Latin American and Caribbean Conference of Social Sciences.



Luna's Don Bustos and Anthony Baca were recognized for their 25 years of service at the college.



Luna Interim President Ricky Serna reads an appreciation plaque given to him on behalf of the college by Staff Senate President Amanda Ortiz. The presentation was part of the Dec. 12 employee recognition luncheon and potluck at Café de Luna.