

The latest news from Luna Community College

Second Volume 3, Issue 20

Nov. 16, 2020

The whole tooth



Luna dental assisting students Angela Solano and Alyssa Grego teach elementary school youngsters how to properly floss.

Dental assisting team educates youngsters via virtual classroom

Delivering educational messages on the importance of dental hygiene, Luna Community College's dental assisting students have been busy this fall reaching out to area elementary and middle school classes.

Such presentations are typically a

part of Luna's dental assisting program, but moving them online has been necessitated by COVID-19 safety measures.

"Sharing our information and knowledge with kids is very critical," said Luna dental assisting student Annalysse Lucero. "One of our jobs as a dental assistant is to help prevent any diseases of the oral cavity. Making sure kids know the proper way to brush and floss gives them the knowledge to ensure they're doing it the right way. Nutrition and exercise is big as well – making sure you eat the right foods and drink plenty of water is a big help in making sure the teeth stay nice and strong."

"It is very important to teach the littles about oral hygiene," agreed classmate Alyssa Grego, "because not everyone knows how to brush and floss properly, and the only way to prevent problems in the future is to educate them on proper techniques now."

"It's unfortunate that we're not able to be with them in person," said Chantel Rivera, Luna dental assisting instructor. "In a normal setting we would be able to get the grade school students more involved by calling on volunteers to demonstrate what we explained on the proper techniques used for brushing and flossing. COVID has forced us to think outside the box and get creative with our presentations."

Rivera helps set up the presentations and then ensures the Luna camera captures what her students are presenting so the youngsters get the most out of the

MORE: See Page 4



Veterans honored Nov. 11

Luna Community College paid tribute to its own armed service veterans and vets elsewhere on Nov. 11.

The ceremony was shared via a live stream on Facebook.

Luna interim President Dr. Kenneth Patterson read a proclamation honoring veterans. He was accompanied by interim Vice President of Instruction and Student Services Maxine Hughes.

"It is important to recognize veterans, not only on Veterans Day, but every day because they volunteered to protect our country from enemies, foreign and domestic," said Luna Veterans Resource Center Coordinator Sarah Cantu. "They selflessly gave their time and commitment, and left their own families, to give their life to our country to give us the life and freedom we all enjoy every day. While nothing can fully thank veterans enough, we at Luna Community College and the Veterans Resource Center want you to know that we thank you and appreciate you and will always be available to assist you however we can."

Facebook video available to public

Cantu has worked with approximately 180 veterans and their dependents at Luna.

"We very much appreciate each and every single one of you for your time and selfless dedication you gave during your time of service and every day since then," said Cantu.

"We want all veterans to know that we respect and honor them," said Patterson. "We are grateful for the many sacrifices they have made for our country. From the bottom of our heart, we thank them."

This year also marks the 101 st anniversary of Armistice Day.



Above: U.S. flags fly in the November breeze on the hillside east of the Luna campus. At left, Dr. Kenneth Patterson and Maxine Hughes lay a wreath as part of Veterans Day recognition ceremonies at Luna. This year's event is available online via the college's Facebook page.

New registrar, CTE director

Geraldine Saavedra has been named the new registrar for Luna Community College.

Saavedra is a former assistant registrar at New Mexico Highlands University and has years of higher education experience. She came to Luna in November 2018 as a scheduling and catalog specialist, then became dual credit and transfer coordinator in September 2019.

Among the other recent additions to the Luna team is Dr. John Thompson, who began work Nov. 2 as director of the Career & Technical Education Department. CTE is

the department formerly known as Vocational Education.

During the Nov. 10 regular meeting of the LCC Board of Trustees, Thompson spoke about his background and his perspectives on building a successful CTE departmen

Luna's Board of Trustees has voted to enlist the services of Gold Hill Associates, an outside search firm, to help oversee its search for a president.

The board on Nov. 5 interviewed representatives of several search consulting firms as part of open session in a special BOT meeting. Each firm was allotted up to 30 minutes, during which there was a presentation and a O&A period for each. On Nov. 10, the trustees made their choice.

The board will retain the ability to review each phase of the search process.

In recommending the use of an outside firm, BOT Chairman Dr. Phyllis Martinez said it will prevent appearances of conflict of interest while also enabling sufficient devotion of energy and attention to the search. An advisory group with representation from various constituencies will be involved as well, Martinez noted.

The presidential search is expected to extend into spring 2021.

Dr. Kenneth Patterson has served as interim president of the college since June. Prior to that, he'd been the vice president of instruction and student services since September 2019. Maxine Hughes, director of the Luna nursing department, has stepped up to double as the academic VP under Patterson.

The college is looking for a new member of the Luna

Board of Trustees to represent

District 7.

The new board member would take over for Maxine Salas, who recently stepped down from the board. Candidates must reside in District 7 (boundary maps available online at luna.edu/ approved lcc board). Candidates should submit letters of interest and resumes to 366 Luna Drive, Las Vegas, NM, 87701. Deadline for receipt of application packet is Nov. 30.



This deer passed through the Luna campus on Friday afternoon. It was first spotted walking through Maria H. Paiz parking lot.

Shared governance: New chairman Jason Killian and the Shared Governance Council are overseeing a move to revive the SGC subcommittees and the process of acting on bills. In pre-COVID days, the subcommittees met weekly to discuss and take action on bills brought before

shared governance by the campus community. Due in part to attrition, those subgroups have needed to be reconstituted. Additionally, the SGC is establishing a way for bills and other documents to be accessed online, enabling the process to resume.

Killian succeeds Amanda Lucero as chairman, and Lawrence Vigil was elected vice chairman to fill Killian's previous spot.





"Going over something over and over again really helps it stick."

> Alyssa Grego Dental assisting student



Tooth

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presentations, which are delivered using the teleconferencing technology used to hold the classes themselves.

In addition to providing a community service, teaching the elementary and middle schoolers helps the Luna students better assimilate the endeavoring to make the most of the material they are sharing.

"It helps me a lot as a student to teach the littles because going over the routines every week and switching roles helps me understand all the techniques and different information that is given from each of my peers," Grego explained. "Going over something over and over again really helps it stick."

"It helps a lot," Lucero concurred. "Doing oral health presentations over and over, you find something new every time. It really intrigues me to learn information and pass it on."

Adjusting and adapting to having more of their own learning experiences in a virtual setting is an ongoing challenge, but Luna's dental assisting students are making it happen.

"It's definitely challenging in some ways, as in being interactive with other classmates and instructors," Lucero said, noting that she misses the classroom setting and the advantages

of more hands-on activity.

Dealing with technical issues and the adjustment to online learning remains a work in progress for Grego. "Schedules were hectic at the beginning," she noted, "but it's slowly getting better ... I'm doing as best as I can with all the challenges and restrictions with COVID-19."

As an instructor, Rivera is also situation.

"Some courses are easier to teach online," she said. "The courses that require instrument identification and learning how to operate the different dental equipment have been the most difficult, but we're finding ways to meet in the classroom by appointments for more hands-on learning. I think in a way it's a small blessing in disguise because it allows for more one-on-one teaching and learning. Out class is already small to begin with, but breaking it down further really allows me to explain things on a more personal level ... It gives me insight as to what each individual student is struggling with, and in return I can alter my teaching method to meet their needs."

For more information on Luna's dental assisting program and other educational and vocational offerings, please visit luna.edu.

KOB reporter talks news, both real and 'fake'

The concept of "fake news," the importance of true journalism and the modern state of politics were among the subjects discussed by KOB-TV investigative reporter Chris Ramirez and students in Rick Baca's Critical Thinking class at Luna Community College on Oct. 29.

Ramirez, whose broadcast reporting career has included stints at both KOB and KOAT, took time from the hectic schedule covering the home stretch of one of the most significant general elections in recent history to share his insights with the Luna students. Ramirez spent the better part of an hour discussing his work and answering questions from students.

"People would rather believe something that confirms their political bias."

> **Chris Ramirez** KOB-TV reporter

Chris Ramirez shares insights with Luna students in Critical Thinking class

Perhaps spurred on by political figures, many in the general public have targeted those in the media, with the term "fake news" increasingly used as a label. Ramirez said that way of thinking is flawed but has motivated him to be more scrupulous than ever in gathering and reporting news.

"How would you define 'fake news'? The definition I use is information coming from unverified, discredited sources," he said, citing Russia's reported misinformation campaign in the 2016 election as an example. The label, however, has become misused, he said. "When people don't like what I have to say (or if) it doesn't align with your political beliefs, it automatically gets cast as fake news. That is problematic ... people would rather believe something that confirms their political bias. That's a really dangerous place to be. There's a huge segment of our population that reject





facts because it doesn't align with (their) belief system. I feel like I have to go above and beyond to prove (the reporting is accurate). I as a journalist am working so much harder than before to make sure what I put on television is verified, fact-driven, data-driven."

The same cannot be said, Ramirez noted, for the world of social media, from which many derive

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College Scorecard:

The U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard has the most reliable data on college costs, graduation and post-college earnings. Visit collegescorecard.ed.gov

News

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information treated as news irrespective of its credibility.

"I like that this is a class about critical thinking," Ramirez said, addressing the Luna students directly. "I think it's more important than ever to become critical thinkers ... to question things around you and (not give in to) assumptions. I'm excited to see Luna has a course like this ... honing those critical thinking skills and sharpening those minds. You are the next generation of leaders."

Ramirez encouraged students to "keep thinking critically, be curious, and keep asking questions," especially of public officials: "They serve you," he said, "not the other way around."

Ramirez also touched on the state of modern politics: "We are the most polarized that we've ever been," he said. "Tribal politics has made our to attend New Mexico State in Las country really divisive.



"It's more important than ever... to question things around you ... I'm excited to see Luna has a course like this."

> **Chris Ramirez KOB-TV** reporter

middle. It's either the Democrat way or the Republican way ... I think they're both really guilty of playing into tribalism. (Working together) is just not something we're seeing enough."

One of the primary strengths of New Mexico is the warmth of its people, said Ramirez, an El Paso native who moved around plenty as the son of an Air Force veteran.

After returning to the Southwest Cruces, he took a reporting job in South Carolina. But he made his way back to New Mexico, he said, because "I wanted to work hard for a community I could relate to."

"This kind of work in New Mexico has been really rewarding," he said. "To see actual change happen because of something we've exposed – that's the kind of work I live for."

Ramirez said he first got into journalism in part because of multiple influences as a child – his parents watching the news and subscribing to newspapers – and his own natural curiosity. "I wanted to know more. I was a kid of the '90s. I would go to the library to read encyclopedia articles. I wanted to know about things. This was before Google existed where you could just type it in. If you have a natural curiosity, journalism could be a career that fits you."

In response to one student question, Ramirez said working for a media outlet that covers a geographically large state with limited resources presents a challenge. "We have really frank and There's not a lot of meeting in the critical thinking discussions about where to put our resources," he said.

> "It is expensive. (So we look for subjects with) widespread appeal, things worth our efforts so we can be a catalyst for change."

In spite of what some media consumers may suggest to the contrary, Ramirez said he's encountered a lot of positive feedback in Las Vegas and other communities.

"Every community I go to, it's warm. People are warm. People are excited that I'm there to cover the news ... Every time I go to Las Vegas, people thank me for going there ... You want your community to do better, and usually the first step is to shine a light on a problem."

Course instructor Rick Baca's approach to teaching, particularly in the HD 260 Critical Thinking course, favors bringing in special guest speakers - like Ramirez -from various professional fields. For more information on the Luna Humanities Department and other academic and vocational opportunities available at the college, please visit luna.edu.

Know the Difference: Flu vs. COVID-19

Get a flu shot now! Find a clinic: www.immunizenm.org

Flu Symptoms

- · Fever* or chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- · Runny or stuffy nose
- · Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children than adults)
- *Not everyone with flu will have a fever.

COVID-19 Symptoms

- · Fever or chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- · Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COVID-19 HOTLINE

1-855-600-3453

Available 24/7

The Luna Light is a publication of the Luna Community College Office of Public Relations. To submit story ideas or items for consideration, please e-mail Jesse Gallegos, jgallegos@luna.edu, and Dave Kavanaugh, dkavanaugh@luna.edu.

^{*}Many people with COVID-19 do not experience symptoms

GO Bond C gets nod from voters

Luna Community College stands to benefit from the passage of General Obligation Bond C, a statewide question put before voters in New Mexico's general election on Nov. 3.

G.O. Bond C is slated to provide up to a combined \$156 million in funding for infrastructure needs to Luna and other public colleges, universities, tribal schools and specialty schools across the state. Backers have estimated the bond will help create 1,500 jobs in 23 cities.

the vote, 523,396 in favor and 283,772 against.

Luna's allocation of bond proceeds includes \$1 million for planning, design, construction and replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems on campus.

The bond is projected to generate approximately \$8 million for the local area, benefitting both Luna and New Mexico Highlands University.

Two other G.O. bonds — one designating \$33.3 million in funds

Bond C passed with 65 percent of for senior citizens facilities and one with \$9.8 million for public and school library acquisitions - also won approval by voters.

> In New Mexico, election turnout mirrored that across the nation. Some 923,612 ballots were reported out of 1.35 million registered voters in the state, according to the office of Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver. That is a participation rate of 68.3 percent — one of the better rates in modern history.



TEAS nursing school entrance exam

Fall 2020 test dates

Scheduling for the following dates is taking place now.

Tuesday, Nov. 10 8:30 a.m.

Friday, Nov. 13 1:30 p.m.

505-454-2525 Thursday, Dec. 3 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 4 8:30 a.m. **Contact: Yvonne Piña**

ypina@luna.edu

Students, you can also schedule a date and time to test one-on-one with Yvonne from Dec. 7 through Dec. 18. You will be permitted to select your time and date depending on availability.

You have up to three attempts per academic year to pass the exam; the fee for each attempt will be \$70.

New student senate takes office

Luna Community College's student senate recently inducted a new slate of officers and members for the 2020-21 school year. The Luna Light shares the following introductory information.

"Hello, my name is Mario Romero. I am a nontraditional student attending school here at Luna Community



College and majoring in criminal justice for my associate to set up my school career for Highlands, where I plan on pursuing my master's in social work. I currently work at kids counseling her in Vegas; I am a comprehensive community support worker, helping children and their families become resilient and assisting them in creating a bridge in areas they are struggling with — in the community, at home or in school - using coping skills and natural resources. I am the president of the student senate here at LCC; we attend and facilitate different meetings based on helping the student body with their college experience and addressing any concerns that may be a barrier. I love helping people in any way I can!"

"Hi, my name is Stephanie Carrillo. I am vice president of student senate and a criminal justice student for the last few years at LCC. I was born and raised in Las Vegas, N.M., I was a West Las



Vegas graduate. I have enjoyed being an LCC student for the last few years. It has given me a lot of encouragement and self confidence toward my education and to secure a better future for myself and my family."

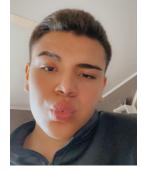
"My name is Masie Estep, and I am a student in the early childhood education program here at Luna. I have



been a part of the student senate for a year and a half now and have enjoyed working alongside the other members of the student senate to bounce around ideas, create and bring out life events for our student body. As a member of the student senate, I have volunteered to work as the secretary and treasurer, which means that I get to take notes for our biweekly meetings and keep our budget up to date. My husband and I are both transplants to New Mexico and are originally from California. We have been here for around five

years and have enjoyed the process of becoming part of this small knit community. We have three dogs that we love to take on walks and hikes around Las Vegas: a Dachshund, Petunia; a Doberman, Cooper; and lastly the baby, Zeus, who's a Choodle. I work at the UWC in Montezuma, where I help plan, prepare and meet the culinary needs of the students and staff. Since COVID has restricted our ability to be in person for our classes, it's been so refreshing to still be a part of the student senate where we are able to keep in touch and hopefully help our student body through this pandemic."

"Hi, my
name is Isaiah
Fernandez. I am
a second-year
student here at
Luna
Community
College. I am a
criminal justice



major. I will soon be graduating with my associate degree."

"My name is
Emma George,
and I'm a
freshman
majoring in
criminal justice.
I came here
from Santa Fe,



MORE: See Page 10

Student senate

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N.M. I am part of the LCC softball team, and I'm excited to be able to represent Luna."

"I am Angelica Montanez, a freshman student at LCC. I play softball and am a member of the student



senate. I am from Texas and am coming to like this little town. I really like reading and playing games. Hope to hear from you all and see you come to our activities."

"Hello I am Jake, Jacob Ladd. Glad I am at Luna Community College. My major is political



science, minor in criminal justice. I

seek to be an ambassador to foreign countries, and I am a long-standing political activist."

"Hello, my name is Alisson Hill, and I am currently a sophomore at Luna Community College. I



came to Luna to pursue an associate degree in criminal justice, which I will receive this upcoming spring semester. I have always appreciated helping others and being involved in making changes within our community. I have recently joined our student senate here at Luna. I chose to participate in this organization for many reasons. I feel that this can benefit both myself and others. My degree consists of teamwork and many minds coming together as one. Student senate can help me create and express my ideas, while also being able to accept and appreciate other ideas. Being able to participate in student senate not only gives me a voice a chance to be heard, but all student body as well. I

will contribute to the best of my abilities, so that all students, staff and faculty have a positive experience here."

"Greetings! My name is Kimberly Baca, and I am thrilled to say this is my third year teaching criminal justice and sociology



courses here at Luna Community College. I am a native of Las Vegas, N.M., and graduated with a bachelor of arts in criminal justice studies and a master of arts in public affairs from New Mexico Highlands University. Currently I have been invited to sit with the students on student senate as their advisor. My goals while participating in student senate are to assist in maintaining a healthy, happy and successful student body through our student senate council. My passion is creating and delivering programs and services that will provide students with resources and materials to succeed in their life endeavors."

Master's degree for Shrum

Congratulations to Joy Shrum. Shrum, a full-time nursing faculty member at Luna, has earned her master's of science in nursing with a concentration in nursing education from Purdue Global University.



Meet your ACE tutors

Luna Community College Academic Center for Excellence tutors are available to help students with various classes and subjects.

Luna students may contact ACE coordinator Ray Varela at 505-454-5306 or rvarela@luna.edu to set up appointments or ask any questions

about ACE.

Here is a behind-the-scenes look at a couple of our ACE team members (first in a series):

Luna Light PERSONALITY PROFILE

ACE TUTOR: Abigail Gurule HOMETOWN: Cuba, N.M.

SUBJECT(S): Allied Health Sciences

OTHER JOBS: None

EDUCATION: Cuba High School

What motivates you to tutor students?

I enjoy helping students understand the

content and succeed in their classes. Also it helps me continue to learn, refresh on subjects and improve my people skills.

Whom do you admire the most and why? My older brother. He has pushed through school and received multiple degrees. He is always looking out for others, willing to help those in need. And he is the most driven person I know.

What is something about you that would surprise most people? I have been a volunteer firefighter in my hometown for about seven years.

FAVORITE MOVIE: The Fast and the Furious series

FAVORITE TV SHOW: House, M.D. FAVORITE FOOD: Bacon with rice **FAVORITE SPORT:** Basketball

FAVORITE SONG: "And to Those I Love, Thanks for Sticking

Around" by SuicideBoy\$

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST: Jhene Aiko

FAVORITE THING ABOUT LUNA AND/OR VEGAS: The sense of community and how they welcome new people in with open arms

HOBBY: Swimming, hiking, camping

Luna Light PERSONALITY PROFILE

ACE TUTOR: Jonathan Lujan **HOMETOWN:** Las Vegas, N.M. **SUBJECT(S):** English, humanities OTHER JOBS: Career navigator

EDUCATION: LCC, ENMU



What motivates you to tutor students?

I find it to be a rewarding job. I enjoy

witnessing students become better writers and gain confidence in their studies.

Whom do you admire the most and why? My mother. She taught me respect, decency and empathy.

What is something about you that would surprise most people? I've recorded a dozen rap songs.

FAVORITE MOVIE: "Goodfellas"

FAVORITE TV SHOW: "The Sopranos," "Narcos Colombia"

FAVORITE FOOD: Pink Lady Apple **FAVORITE SPORT:** Baseball

FAVORITE SONG: "Hyperbolicsyllabicsesquedalymistic"

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST: Nas

FAVORITE THING ABOUT LUNA AND/OR VEGAS: About Luna,

coworkers. About Vegas, landscapes and skies. **HOBBY:** Collecting vinyl records, writing





Students!

Your ticket to many forms of federal student financial aid, the FAFSA is now available at fafsa.gov. Fill it out ASAP to get as much financial aid as possible.

Join our team and help us serve our communities!

Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

FULL-TIME

- Career services advisor ... opened Nov. 9, 2020 (INTERNAL LISTING)
- College & Career Readiness Institute manager ... opened Oct. 30, 2020 (INTERNAL LISTING)
- Chief financial officer ... opened Oct.
 29, 2020
- Institutional Effectiveness and Research director ... opened July 28, 2020; re-posted Oct. 8, 2020

TEMPORARY PART-TIME

 Preschool substitute teacher caretaker ... opened Sept. 30, 2020 ACE tutors (multiple) ... opened Sept. 23, 2020

ADJUNCT (per course)

- Career & Technical Education automotive instructor, Springer ... opened Nov. 21, 2019
- Career & Technical Education welding instructor, Santa Rosa ... opened Oct. 31, 2019
- Career & Technical Education CDL instructor ... opened August 28, 2019
- Career & Technical Education collision repair instructor ... opened June 6, 2018



Most recent postings listed first. All positions open until filled unless otherwise noted. For more information on each position, please log on to our website at https://www.luna.edu/jobs





WHY SHOULD YOU GET THE FLU SHOT?

Flu can strike the healthiest of people. Getting your flu shot doesn't just help keep you and your loved ones healthy and safe - it reduces stress on our healthcare system.

SHOULD EVERYONE GET A FLU SHOT?

Yes. If you're a New Mexican, you should get your flu shot this year - particularly if you are a member of one or more of the following groups: people age 65 and older, young children, especially those under 2 years old, American Indian and Alaska Natives, people with chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease, pregnant women and up to 2 weeks postpartum, and morbidly obese persons.

WHEN SHOULD YOU GET A FLU SHOT?

As soon as you can. The flu season typically begins in October, and the flu shot takes about 2 weeks for antibodies to develop and provide protection from the virus. This is why it is essential to get a flu shot before community spread begins or before you catch the virus itself.

WHERE CAN I GET MY FLU SHOT?

The New Mexico Department of Health and private providers throughout the state have the flu shot available for New Mexicans.

FIND YOUR NEAREST PROVIDER AT TOGETHERNM.ORG/FLU

Saturday, November 21st from 10am-1pm
Memorial Middle School
947 Old National Road Las Vegas, NM 87701

Luna Community College

Las Vegas, NM Board of Trustees District 7 vacancy

Luna Community College is seeking individuals interested in filling the vacancy for the Board of Trustees in District 7, San Miguel County. To be considered for the board, an individual must be a qualified elector and a resident of District 7.

For further details regarding district maps, visit www.luna.edu.

Individuals must submit a letter of interest and resume to:

Luna Community College

Office of the Interim President

366 Luna Drive

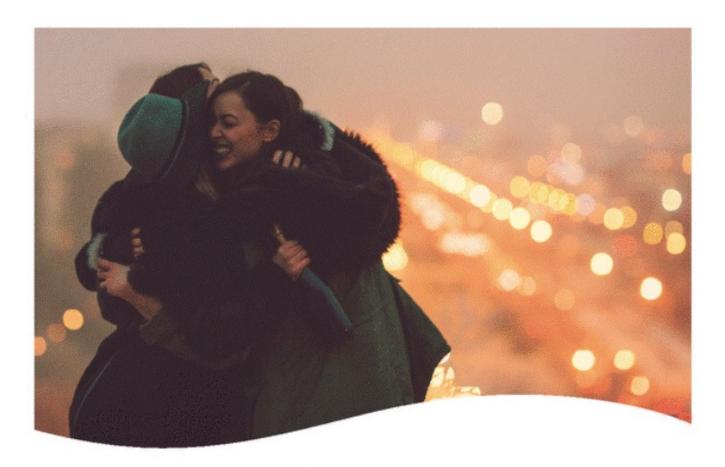
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Packets may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Office of the Interim President.

They must be received by Monday, Nov. 30, to be considered. The Board of Trustees holds the authority to fill the vacancy in District 7. Trustees are expected to review applicant packets at their December meeting and interview finalists shortly thereafter. The individual selected shall serve until the next LCC board election (November 2021) at which time candidates may file for election to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

Luna's current Higher Learning Commission accreditation status is probation. For more information about the college's current status, you may visit the hlcommission.org website.





Luna Community College Nursing Program

Thursday, December 3 10:00AM to 2:00PM Abe Montoya Rec Center Gymnasium

Call Laura Hill 505.246.1490 To Sign Up

COVID-19 Antibody Testing Included!

To learn about our programs or how we can help your transfusion service, call 877.258.4825 or visit us at vitalant.org

