

The latest news from Luna Community College

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Visit luna.edu Graduation Edition



Congratulations 2024 Luna graduates! The graduation ceremony took place on Saturday, May 11 at Luna's Media Education Center Auditorium. For more photos, please see inside pages.

Former student Gladis Romero says Luna opened doors for her

Although Gladis Romero first attended Luna in the fall of 2017, she remains grateful for what the college has done for her.

Romero is a licensed cosmetologist in the state of New Mexico, something she gives Luna credit for.

“Coming to college at Luna helped me out in many ways,” says Romero who is a native of Mexico. “I really appreciate Luna.

Romero, who is a licensed cosmetologist in Mexico, wanted the same credentials in the United States and Luna was the school to provide her that opportunity.

“When I got here, I went to the state board in Santa Fe and they told me that I had to talk to Germaine Sandoval about classes,” says Romero. “She’s an angel that God put in my path not just for me, but for everyone.”

Sandoval has over 20 years teaching at Luna’s cosmetology program.

“Gladis is also an inspiration for me because of her drive and determination,” says Sandoval. “She is very motivated.”

Continued on page 2

Romero...

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Romero says that Sandoval is simply a great instructor.

“Any doubts I had, I would go to her immediately and she always found time to meet with me and help me,” says Romero about Sandoval.

Romero says that her husband Adelaido Romero also played a role in her success.

“He is the love of my life and he inspired me,” says Romero.

“Gladis took care of her ailing dad after graduating from Luna, but I didn’t let her quit,” says Adelaido. “She currently works at Universal Hair Cuts in Santa Fe. I am so happy and proud of her.”

“I eventually would like to own my own shop in Las Vegas if God wills it,” says Romero. “There are times that I do 30 haircuts a day, I had over 18 years of experience in Mexico.”

Romero says that her journey was important in other ways.

“I wanted to demonstrate to my three kids that I could earn my license in two countries,” says Romero. “There is no age limit of when you can earn your education.”



Gladys Romero (right) is pictured here with Luna cosmetology instructor Germaine Sandoval.

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MISSION

Luna Community College is dedicated to providing accessible, innovative and integrated learning experiences that prepare students to compete at the forefront of their chosen fields and to lead in their communities



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Luna Community College in
Las Vegas, NM is launching a

Padres Y Madres ACADEMY

to Empower Parents with
Essential Skills for
Supporting Student
Success



The **Parents Academy** covers critical topics such as **Digital Literacy**, **Financial Literacy**, **Financial Aid** (including FAFSA and Scholarships), and **Luna Career Pathways**.

Because parents play a pivotal role in supporting their students' educational journey, this academy aims to provide them with the knowledge and resources needed to effectively navigate important aspects of the college experience.

The Padres Y Madres Academy will offer a series of workshops, seminars, and resources designed to accommodate the diverse needs and schedules of parents and guardians. Through interactive sessions led by knowledgeable instructors and guest speakers, participants will gain practical skills, insights, and strategies to effectively support their students' educational journey.

THE ACADEMY IS FREE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!

All parents and guardians wishing to learn more about how to help their students navigate the college path are encouraged to fill out the form and sign up for the academy.

For more information about the Padres Y Madres Academy and to weigh in on the topics you would like to see covered by the academy, please click the "Learn More" button and complete the interest form. You may also email Sherry Goodyear at parentsacademy@luna.edu or call her at 505-587-3824 for more information.

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Over 140 fifth graders attend Annual *Girls Can* event at Luna

For the third consecutive year, Luna Community College hosted the local *Girls Can!* Career Exploration Event. Approximately 140 fifth grade girls from San Miguel, Mora, and Guadalupe, counties attended the one day event, recently.

Girls Can! is an initiative of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Las Vegas, N.M. branch. Professors, instructors and other women professionals from Luna, Highlands, and the community were the featured presenters. They conducted hands-on workshops and spoke with the students about their experiences and the opportunities available through education and other career pathways.

The girls participated in workshops and presentations in various fields ranging from science, technology and computer science to welding, health care, engineering, forestry, and cosmetology. The girls experienced a college campus and met and talked with various women professionals. They had lunch after their workshops in the Luna cafeteria, and then boarded buses to return to their schools.

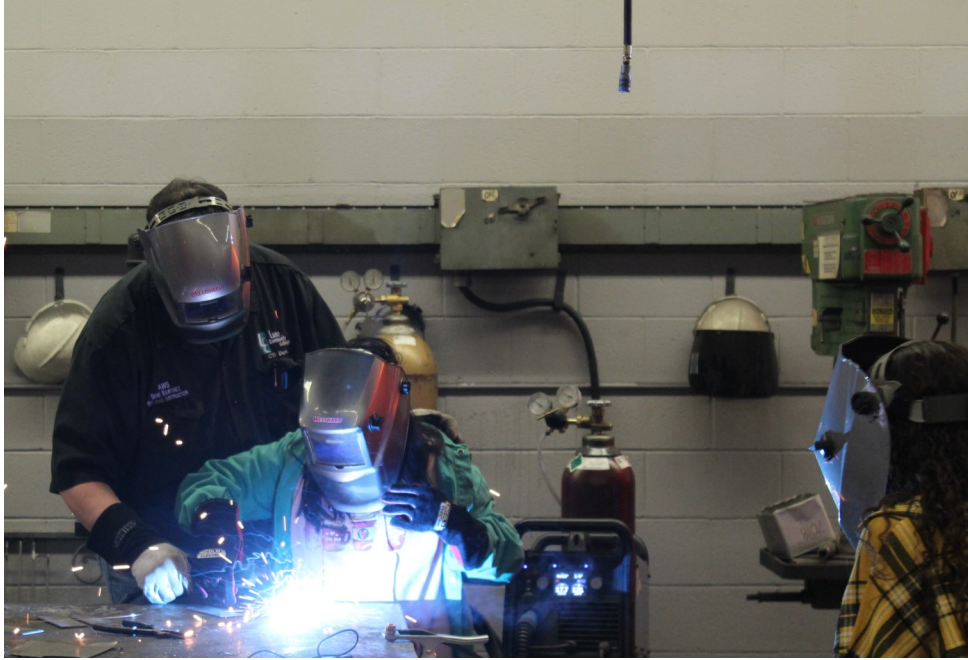
In 2023, approximately 125 fifth grade girls from San Miguel, Mora, Guadalupe, and Colfax counties attended the one-day event.

Dr. Carol Linder, Vice President of Finance and Administration at Luna, and Dr. Mary Shaw, professor emerita at Highlands University, and Ms. Carla Romero, professor emerita at Highlands University, were this year's coordinators. They have all been involved with *Girls Can!* for many years. Many other AAUW members contribute to making this annual event a success.

"The young ladies attending this year's event saw all the exciting and new programs Luna has to offer," said Linder. "The hope is that many of them will consider going into those fields."

Romero, also a veteran educator, said the local AAUW branch has been conducting *Girls Can!* for nearly two decades in Las Vegas and San Miguel County. Romero said that AAUW focuses on reducing early gender-bias and encourages female students to pursue higher education – including fields of study to which they have not traditionally been guided.

Romero said she grew up in Wagon Mound and while she encountered good role models such as teachers and princi-



Girls Can participants learned hands-on education throughout the day at Luna.

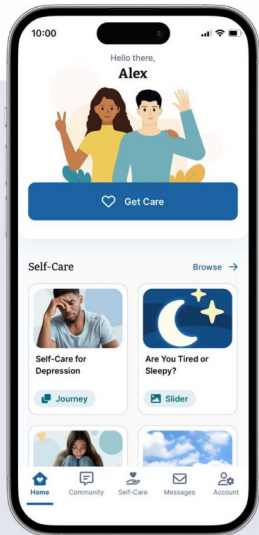
pals, there were many potential career fields to which she and other girls had little to no exposure.

"We want *Girls Can!* participants to realize that girls can be anything they want to be, as long as they work at it" Romero said. "They shouldn't limit themselves or the careers they pursue."

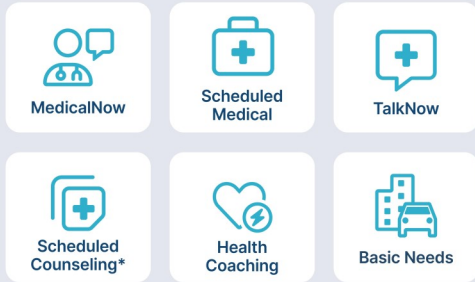


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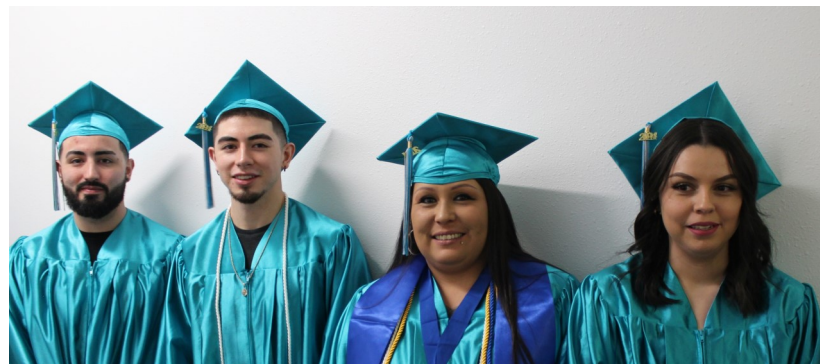
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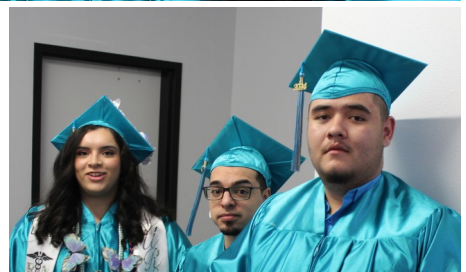
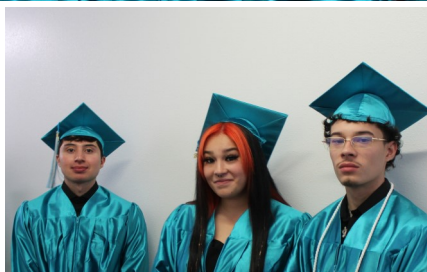
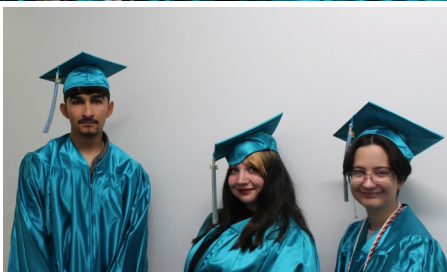


Luna Community College had a signing ceremony for National Junior College Athletic Association home run and RBI record holder Angelica Ortiz on campus on Saturday, April 27. The campus was invited to meet Ortiz and the Lady Rough Riders who won a school record 21 games this season. Ortiz thanked her family, teammates, the coaching staff and Luna Community College. A special thank you went out to Luna professor Dr. Billie Matthews for her academic guidance during Ortiz' tenure at the college. Ortiz will play for the University of Texas at San Antonio next year.











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IT installing new hardware for student computer labs

The 2023 New Mexico State Legislature provided a \$250,000 appropriation to Luna Community College for IT equipment to upgrade student use computer labs. The IT department performed an assessment of current computer labs and developed a plan to upgrade various labs throughout the main campus and satellites. The new equipment has been purchased and delivered, and Luna's IT team is currently imaging computers and deploying the equipment to various buildings.



The Luna IT department has been installing new hardware throughout campus.

na has had new equipment in our student labs. It's very exciting to see the new labs going up with the new technology. Hopefully this will bring in a surge of new students to our STEM and Media programs" said Luna IT Director Greg Salazar.

Salazar sends a shout out to Shannon Ortiz with the IT Department for spearheading the deployment. Salazar would also like to thank Kade Hunt and Anthony (AJ) Johnson, IT work studies, for their help in building these labs.

"It's been a long time since Lu-

