

## The latest news from Luna Community College

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# Dr. Carol Linder brings a lot of experience to her new role as interim president at Luna

Dr. Carol Linder became Luna Community College's Interim President in June 2024. As a scientist, Dr. Linder understands success requires collaboration with those having skills and talents that complement her own. As an educator, she modeled to her students the necessity of teamwork, of critical thinking, consulting experts, and cooperating to solve problems.

Raised in Española, Dr. Linder earned her bachelor of science degree from UNM and went to graduate school at UT Austin, and received her postdoctoral training at Washington State University and Oregon State University.

Her employment at a mouse genetics

research facility in Maine further shaped her outlook. She returned to northern New Mexico in 1997. Dr. Linder joined the NMHU biology faculty in 2004; following a successful career of teaching and research, she served as Highlands's interim associate provost and provost from 2016 – 2018.

An ordained Elder in the Presbyterian Church, she also chairs the San Miguel Family & Community Health Council, and is an active member of both Rotary Club and the American Association of University Women.

An enthusiastic life-long learner, Dr. Linder seeks out challenges. She completed an MBA in Finance at NMHU. In 2021

she joined Luna as an academic director. She became Vice President of Finance and Administration in 2023. Her greatest passion remains the creation of opportunities for others.



**Dr. Carol Linder**

Although she loves working directly with students, her endeavors as an administrator stem from her desire to promote student success by removing barriers and increasing Luna's ability to change the career trajectory of all we serve.

# Luna gets two CDL and five heavy equipment simulators

Luna Community College's Contract Education Department has purchased two CDL and five heavy equipment simulators. The simulators' value is over \$500,000.

Luna CDL administrator Tracy Morales says that the funding for the simulators came from state appropriations and the Wildfire Resiliency Training Center USDA grant.

The CDL simulators consist of Class A, Class B and passenger training modules with the heavy equipment simulators having modules to teach excavator, skid steer, backhoe, grader, dozer, forwarder, harvester and wheel loader.

"I think this puts Luna on the map for training cutting edge technology in CDL and heavy equipment driving training," says Morales.

Morales has been at Luna for nearly three years.

"We continue to graduate good quality people," says Morales. "We have hired Tayari Pacheco full-time and he has a good background in both areas." With the anticipated en-



**Luna's Karen Wezwick demonstrates the CDL and Heavy Equipment simulators.**

rollment increase, the college looks to adding several instructors."

Morales says that the simulators will be used to train local communities.

"We will use it to train people in preparation, mitigation and restoration for those affected by the wildfire," says Morales. "Our goal with this department is to provide the latest in technology training. In general, these simulators are going to be a huge boost for this area. Luna has never offered something like this before."

An open house has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, Aug. 16 at the college where community members will have an opportunity to learn more about the new simulators and the CDL and Heavy Equipment program.

For more information on Luna's CDL or Heavy Equipment program, you may call 505-454-5308 or 505-454-2533. You may also email Morales at [tmorales@luna.edu](mailto:tmorales@luna.edu) or [cdl@luna.edu](mailto:cdl@luna.edu).



Luna's EMT program students hosted guests from Classic Air Medical. Classic Air Medical flew in a helicopter and did presentations for students. For more information on Luna's EMT Program, please call 505-454-5303.

## 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



LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# PSYC 1140 99 PSYCHOLOGY OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

**INSTRUCTOR: CHELSEA LUCERO, PSYD,  
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**Class  
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The Allied Health Degree at LCC has been approved by the New Mexico Counseling Board to meet the criteria for Substance Use Counselor (LSAA) in NM.

By taking this class, and one other drug or alcohol-related course, you could meet the criteria to become a LSAA (with the completion of a relevant Associates degree).



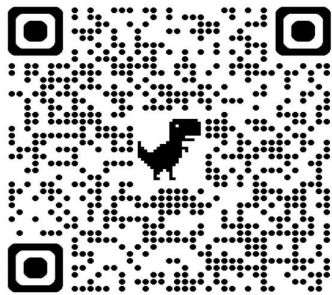
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**ORIENTATION AUGUST 1ST & 2ND  
CLASSES START AUGUST 19TH**

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or call: 505-454-5307



# How to register for classes

If you are a first-year student at Luna, you can apply online <https://luna.edu/application> or contact the admissions office at 505-454-2550 or via email at [admissions@luna.edu](mailto:admissions@luna.edu) or in person to complete the admissions process. Admissions is located on our main campus in the Student Services Building.

After you have been admitted, please contact the Student Success Center at 505-454-2549 or via email at [studentsuccess@luna.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@luna.edu) for advisement and placement testing (ACCUPLACER). Located on the main campus in the Student Services Building.

If you are a returning student, you can register online at <https://pathways.luna.edu>.

For advisement about the courses to take in your program, please contact the student support specialists or your faculty advisor. No answer? Leave a clear message with your name and telephone number. An advisor may be busy assisting another student but will return your call as soon as possible. You may also visit with them in person on our main campus.

Telephone numbers are listed below



Office	Name	Phone Number	Email
Admissions and Recruitment	Group Number	505-454-2550	<a href="mailto:admissions@luna.edu">admissions@luna.edu</a>
Admissions and Recruitment	Savannah Vigil-Lujan	505-454-5312	<a href="mailto:salujan@luna.edu">salujan@luna.edu</a>
Admissions and Recruitment	Andrea Lucero	505-454-5335	<a href="mailto:anlucero@luna.edu">anlucero@luna.edu</a>
Academic and Career Planning	Group Number	505-454-2549	<a href="mailto:studentsuccess@luna.edu">studentsuccess@luna.edu</a>
Admin Assistant	Amanda Tapia-Benavidez	505-454-2502	<a href="mailto:atapia@luna.edu">atapia@luna.edu</a>
Student Support Specialist	Renee Maestas	505-454-5355	<a href="mailto:rmaestas@luna.edu">rmaestas@luna.edu</a>
Student Support Specialist	Anthony Baker	505-454-2513	<a href="mailto:abaker@luna.edu">abaker@luna.edu</a>
Academic and Career Planning Director	Ray Varela	505-454-5343	<a href="mailto:rvarela@luna.edu">rvarela@luna.edu</a>
Registrar's office	Group number	505-454-5313	<a href="mailto:registrar@luna.edu">registrar@luna.edu</a>
Interim Registrar	Alicia Chacon	505-454-2546	<a href="mailto:achacon@luna.edu">achacon@luna.edu</a>
Associate Registrars	Ida Valdez	505-587-3823	<a href="mailto:ivaldez@luna.edu">ivaldez@luna.edu</a>
Student Support Specialist-Registrars	Sergio Hartshorne	505-454-5314	<a href="mailto:shartshorne@luna.edu">shartshorne@luna.edu</a>
Financial Aid	Jessika Smith	575-418-3227	<a href="mailto:jesmith@luna.edu">jesmith@luna.edu</a>
Financial Aid	Seth Schader	575-268-3533	<a href="mailto:sschader@luna.edu">sschader@luna.edu</a>
Cashier	Michele Cordova	505-454-2506	<a href="mailto:micordova@luna.edu">micordova@luna.edu</a>
Dual Credit Liaison	Cynthia Branch	505-454-2541	<a href="mailto:cbranch@luna.edu">cbranch@luna.edu</a>
Bookstore	Ron Duran	505-587-3826	<a href="mailto:rduran@luna.edu">rduran@luna.edu</a>

This registration banner on Bridge St., reminds the public about Luna's 2024 fall semester being right around the corner. Fall classes begin on Monday, Aug. 19 and the last day to register is Friday, Aug. 23.



**Pursue your passion or discover unexplored interests with our individualized and diverse online course offerings.**

Our commitment to excellence through dedicated staff and low-cost tuition rates makes Luna a worthwhile investment for your future.

**ENROLL NOW**

For more information on Luna Community College:

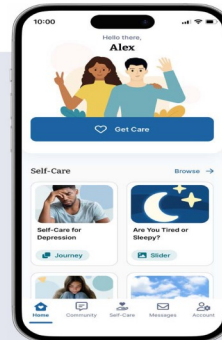
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**Luna Community College**  
"Creating Opportunities For You!"

# Luna students receive laptops

New Mexico Highlands University is one of five Minority-Serving U.S. colleges and universities to be awarded funding by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (CMC).

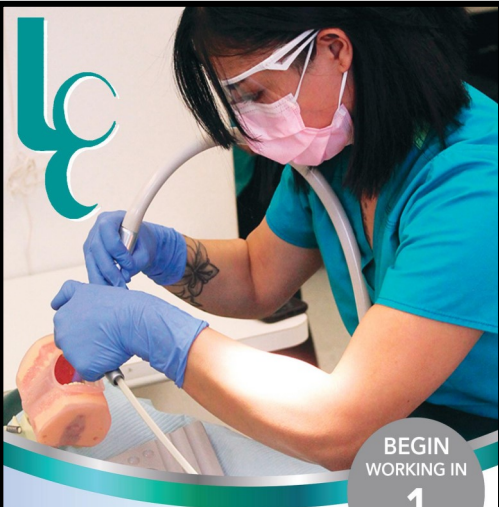
Luna Community College's Director of Education and Business, Tycie Jackson, worked together with the Technology Connecting Communities (TCC) team at NMHU to secure 50 laptops for Luna Community College students. Student who were recipients of a Pell Grant, over the age of 18, and able to demonstrate their need for a new laptop were eligible.



Luna Community College's Academic and Career Planning Director, Raymond Varela, distributed the laptops in the Student Services Building located on Luna Community College's main campus.

**Luna students Raylyn Griffith and Marcelino Molinar receiving their laptops.**

**Luna Community College**  
**“Creating Opportunities For You!”**



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START YOUR CAREER IN  
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*Medical Terminology is offered at Luna!*

WE HAVE NEW  
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We are accepting students into this exciting program!



Contact:  
 Denise Fox 505.454-5382 dfox@luna.edu



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REGISTER FOR  
**FALL 2024**

Classes start on  
**Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**

The last day to register is  
**Friday, Aug. 23, 2024**



**ENROLL NOW!**

For more information, call  
**505 454-2550**

or visit our website at  
**luna.edu**

# Rough Rider Mentorship Summer Bridge Program picking up a little “STEAHM”



**Springer students working on projects in a classroom.**

Luna’s Summer Bridge Program, better known to students as STEAHM Camp, is fast approaching its fourth and final week of the summer. This program was geared to 6th -10th grade students from Las Vegas; as well as, all of our area locations including the Springer and Santa Rosa Satellites, and the Mora Site. Using distance education technology, Luna teachers including Rachael Lucero, Billie Mathews, Nichole Collins, and Savannah Scarborough transmitted by OWL cameras to the sites where local facilitators and student assistants helped students with a variety of scientific experiments, writing assignments, historical research, and basic computer programming lessons.

The idea was to utilize the expertise of Luna instructors in a way that allowed us to provide four weeks of camp at all four sites instead of just one week of camp per site as was done last summer; hence this model was born. At each of the sites was a group of facilitators who were there to assist students with kits/lessons/experiments, the materials for which were all sent to the various locations prior to the start of week 1. Some topics covered included “Isolating the DNA of a strawberry,” “Making slime,” “Writing Haikus,” “Creating comic strips,” “Creating a historical topic for a podcast,” and “Making bracelets using binary code,” to name a few of the many topics covered over the first three weeks of camp.

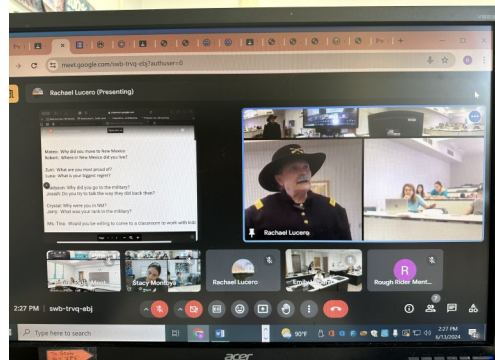
The last week of camp which will happen July 22-25 will be a culmination event where all the students at the satel-



**Santa Rosa students working on plant collection.**



**Santa Rosa students take a minute for a photo.**



**This screen shots shows all the campuses logged into the same Google classroom when Dr. Billie Mathews set up speaker "Kit Carson" to talk to the students.**

ites will be bused to Luna’s Main Campus for a series of campus tours as well as field trips to Fort Union, Rio Mora, Historic Las Vegas, and the Pecos National Historic Park. The final week will allow the students to meet each other face to face as well as get some hands-on field experience, plus put to use the many things they learned during the first three weeks of camp.

Not only did the instructors, facilitators,

tors, student assistants, and students give their time and energy to help make this camp successful, we were also fortunate enough to have a catered lunch every day at each site. Auntie’s Tiendita (Las Vegas), Aaron’s Food Truck (Mora), The Sweet and Salty Cow (Springer), and Dairy Queen of Santa Rosa and Mr. Bee’s Coffee and Teas (Santa Rosa) all provided fresh, hot meals for the students and staff at each site location..

As STEAHM Camp 2024 draws to a close, Program Director, Sherry Goodyear is grateful for all the help she received that made this camp successful.

“Here’s looking forward to an even better camp next summer,” says Goodyear. “And thanks to all who participated in this one. We could not have done it without you.”



## Luna Community College's Education Department Creates a Unique Learning Experience for Students

Through a grant from PNM, Luna Community College's Department of Education has purchased items and is in the process of designing a model classroom where LCC education students can gain experience with classroom design, technology use, and curriculum design.

The theme of the classroom is specific to New Mexico and its various landscapes and biomes.

The classroom area where students will be learning is designed to be an early elementary classroom space, utilizing collaborative learning desks, flexible seating, and a 75 inch interactive digital Vibe whiteboard which will be used to enrich early literacy curriculum and inspire teachers to add movement to their lessons.

In addition, the classroom will contain age appropriate centers featuring natural loose parts for exploration and learning. Teacher prep students will get hands-on experience with curriculum development and classroom design using concepts, ideas, and the environment around them.

The LCC Education Department will have the classroom prepared for use with area youth who will be on campus at the end of July. These students will be the first to experience the model classroom and engage in activities.





# Angelica Ortiz named first-team all-American

Luna Community College's Angelica Ortiz was named first team National Junior College Athletic Association by the NJCAA Division I Softball Committee.

Ortiz joined the All-American team as a designated player. She is the first Luna student-athlete to be named as an All-American.

Ortiz led the nation in RBI's with 119 and home runs with 41. Ortiz was also third in batting average at .533. The 119 RBI's and 41 homeruns are

national NJCAA records.

Ortiz will be playing at the University of Texas at San Antonio this coming season.

Ortiz, an Albuquerque native, played two years at Luna and is a graduate of Atrisco Heritage Academy.

**Angelica Ortiz (right) is joined by Humanities instructor Dr. Billie Mathews during a signing ceremony at the college.**



Luna Community College



**LCC Community KITCHEN**

The LCC Community Kitchen provides a turnkey rental facility to entrepreneurs, culinary professionals and community members. Serving Las Vegas, Mora and northeastern New Mexico communities.

For more information visit  
[www.luna.edu/community-kitchen](http://www.luna.edu/community-kitchen)  
505-454-2516  
**Find out more!**



**Luna automotive technology student Kirk Ludi rides his Batmobile lookalike on campus recently. Ludi said he would like to thank the automotive technology program, the welding program and the auto collision technology program for their assistance in helping him build his car. For more on Luna's Career Technical Education Department, please call 505-454-2522.**

# Luna changes in leadership; committed to serving students

**Notes:** Luna Interim President Dr. Carol Linder recently named Karen Torres as Interim Vice-President of Instruction and Student Services and Dr. Loretta Montoya as Interim Chief Financial Officer. The following are bios on Torres and Montoya.

## Karen Torres

Karen Torres adopted northern New Mexico as her home



26 years ago. Karen obtained her bachelor's in Applied Linguistics from Ashford University, then her Master's degree in Teaching and Learning with Technology at University of Arizona Global. She is currently a Phd in Education candidate at South College, specializing in Higher Education Administration, with expected completion in 2025. She is a strong believer in lifelong learning.

Karen has over 30 years' experience in both non-profit and business management, along with

over ten years' experience in education. Karen has worked at Luna for the past 3.5 years as a College and Career Readiness Institute Instructor and EMT IET Co-Instructor, and most recently as the CTE director. Karen is committed and passionate about the local community and Luna's part in offering opportunities for people to learn, grow, and find skills that lead to successful and sustainable careers.

In her spare time, Karen works on her PhD and enjoys spending time at her ranch near Storrie Lake with her family and animals which include a pack of foster and rescue dogs, chickens, horses, cattle, and burros. She loves to hike, ride horseback, camp, and to be outdoors and active as much as possible. Fun fact: Karen was, at one time, a world champion shovel racer.

## Dr. Loretta Montoya

Loretta has over 30 years of higher education experience, including executive leadership roles in accounting, grants management, budget, finance, treasury management, audit, institutional research and strategic planning. As a consultant since 2018, she has worked in New Mexico community colleges supporting Workday project implementations, finance operations, institutional reporting and various other key projects. Since 2009, Loretta has served as adjunct faculty at Central New Mexico Community College, teaching Financial Literacy courses. In this role, she has enjoyed the opportunity to teach dual credit students throughout New Mexico.



Loretta earned her Doctor of Education degree in Educational Administration from New Mexico State University, her Master's Degree of Public Administration from the University of New Mexico and her Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the College of Santa Fe.

Loretta contributes time to a local credit union, having served in various leadership capacities on the Board of Directors and is currently the Chairperson of the Board. Loretta is a native New Mexican, living in Albuquerque. She attended high school in Las Vegas, New Mexico, with family roots in Las Vegas and Mora. She is married to Karl Romero, and has three grown sons and two dogs, Amigo and Emmi. She enjoys traveling and outdoor activities with family and friends.

Loretta has intentionally focused her career in community colleges, understanding that these institutions provide needed access to higher education and important support to students, whether their goals include attaining a certificate or an associates degree, retooling of skills or the start to a journey as a transfer student. She is passionate about lifelong learning.

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