

Campus climate subject of survey

Looking to stay proactive regarding issues of importance to the Luna Community College community, the college recently conducted a campus climate survey.

The survey, which was distributed by hand to faculty and staff on the main campus and off site, asks questions related to job satisfaction, freedom of expression, perceived fairness and other related topics.

President Dr. Rolando Rael said the intent of the survey is to gain insights from employees and to establish a baseline in an effort to address real and perceived problems and improve campus climate for the various constituencies.

In a letter thanking participants, Rael elaborated: “My intent is to make the results available to the various shared governance groups within the college and have them review the findings. I will ask each group to take the information to their respective constituents and generate feedback that will help improve our campus climate. It is important that everyone working here at Luna feels that their contributions are meaningful and they are treated with respect and fairness. I know that our students are appreciative of all you do for them and that they are Luna’s No. 1 priority.”

In conducting the survey, the college took steps to ensure

responses remained anonymous. Limited self-identifying information was used only to provide a breakdown by the type of employee (i.e. full-time, part-time or adjunct faculty or staff) for data gathering purposes. This was to increase chances each response was candid and expressive. In addition to the multiple-choice response options, participants were welcomed to comment on each section.

Results could help administrators and others identify areas of concern (as well as areas of strength) and enable a more informed dialogue. Future surveys then could be used to gauge the effectiveness of the improvements made, Rael said.

Take note

College & Career Night is Oct. 16 at NMHU gym

If you or anyone you know has ever been curious about higher education and its potential impact, College & Career Night 2019 may have some answers for you.

The annual event, which is open to anyone interested in college, will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, at the John A. Wilson Complex on the New Mexico Highlands University campus.

Representatives of various campus offices and departments from both NMHU and Luna Community College will be available to answer questions and discuss their programs. Topics include admissions and registration, financial aid and scholarships, certificate and degree programs, and transferring of courses. Those who'd like help with applying for federal aid are invited to bring 2018 tax documents and identification.

The event is free.



Success stories being sought

As part of the Luna Community College Office of Public Relations' ongoing efforts to promote the many positive happenings at Luna, we are seeking your help in finding and recognizing LCC success stories.

We are looking for examples of individuals who have attended Luna and gone on to rewarding jobs and careers or those who have continued their education perhaps by earning bachelor's, master's or doctorate degrees. Success stories need not be limited to these; a good success story could be someone who has gone on to have a positive impact on their community in any number of different ways. If you know of any outstanding individuals whose lives

have been positively impacted by their time at Luna, please let us know. It would help if you could provide the necessary contact information, as well, if possible.

As noted above, finding, writing and publishing success stories has been and will continue to be an ongoing endeavor. Please keep us in mind as you encounter potential subjects for these success stories.

Thank you!

Jesse Gallegos
Public Relations Coordinator

Dave Kavanaugh
Communications & Marketing



Members of the Rough Rider softball team hand out candy during a recent homecoming parade. For more images from recent parades, see Pages 6-7. The Rough Riders will play Highlands in a doubleheader beginning at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 15. Luna will be wearing pink in recognition of cancer awareness.

Taking her cue

Gibson qualifies for U.S. Amateur pool tournament

This November will bring more reasons to be thankful for Luna Community College's Denise Gibson.

Gibson will be competing in the 26th annual U.S. Amateur Championships of the American Poolplayers Association on Nov. 6-7 in Palm Harbor, Florida. That's after Gibson qualified for the tournament by winning a 14-woman bracket Sept. 21-22 in Colorado Springs.

It's the best year of pool yet for Gibson, who has been playing competitively for roughly 16 years.

In winning September's preliminaries, she had to prevail in a dramatic race to nine in the final – against an opponent who'd previously beaten her, no less.

"We tied in 8-ball 3-3," she said. "So I had to step it up on 9-ball. I had her 5-0, but she came back. I wound up beating her 9-4. She hung up the 9-ball, and all I had to do was tap it in. That's what had happened to me before."

"It was nerve-wracking," Gibson admitted. "But it was a nice drive back home anyway."

Gibson had played in the preliminaries on three previous



"It's going to be a learning experience. I'm going to do my best."

Denise Gibson
System Administrator and competitive pool player
Luna Community College

occasions, reaching third place in 2018. This time, with just one qualifying spot in the national tourney at stake, she managed to put it all together at the right time.

To date, there are at least 42 women entered in the national tourney, with Gibson the lone representative from New Mexico as of this past week. Prizes to be divvied up in November include trophies, advancement to a professional event,

and travel and lodging expenses for the next year's event.

"I'm not sure how that's going to play out," she said. "It's going to be a learning experience. I'm going to do my best."

Playing pool is something Gibson has done for fun off and on since she was quite young. "When I was little little, I played at home," she recalled.

MORE: See Gibson, Page 9

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



Lori Campos, who is legally blind, leads a Zumba class at the Gerald Ortega Wellness Center at Luna. Campos remains physically active and lives life to the fullest.

Overcoming the odds

Luna's Lori Campos grateful for second chance at life

Lori Campos is a grateful person. She is grateful for what she has and not ungrateful for what she doesn't.

Nineteen years ago in March of the year 2000, on what she thought was a normal Sunday morning, little did she know her life was going to change — a change that would be forever.

What she thought was a smudge in her right contact lens turned out to be a brain tumor.

"I woke up and noticed I had something on my right contact and it was still there on Monday," says Campos. "I eventually set up a doctor's appointment, and in June a specialist told me I had a brain tumor."

Sure, today Campos is an instructor of a popular Zumba class at Luna. And for many of us the story could start and end here. But to truly comprehend the last 19 years of Lori Campos' life, you have to understand the journey.

"I fell apart," admits Campos after receiving the news of her tumor in June that same year. "I cried for two days straight."

It's understandable when you think about a healthy young lady in the prime of her life. Campos and her son Peter, age 7 at the time, along with her husband Pete, a successful senator and school administrator, were living the American dream. But that dream soon turned nightmarish — for a while anyway.

After being put on a lot of medication to bring the size of the tumor down and help prepare her for brain surgery, Lori Campos continued to have fear and pain in her heart and worry in her mind. The crying was continuous until something miraculous happened.

"One night, Pete and I were laying in bed and I couldn't stop crying and then he put his hand on my head and started praying and all of a sudden my fear was gone," remembers Lori Campos. "From that moment on, I knew I had to be strong."

Although the challenges of surgery, recovery and moving on were still there, perhaps the biggest obstacle — fear — was gone.

It was replaced with hope — hope, never giving up and looking forward to whatever was going to take place.

“One of the toughest things I did was explain to my son Peter that his mom was sick and the future was uncertain,” said Lori Campos. “I told him that God was testing us and that we had to pass this test. He would tell me that I was his ‘best, best, best, best friend.’” I had to tell him that his mom would not be talking to him for a while.”

After a 14-hour surgery in June of 2000 that removed almost all of the tumor that was the size of a plum, she slept for five straight days.

“My own son didn’t recognize me,” she says.

More importantly, she had survived the surgery and like in most things in life, that first step was the most important. Months of speech, occupational and physical therapy followed — she literally had to relearn little things that most of us take for granted.

Nothing for Lori Campos has been easy for the last 19 years, perhaps the most devastating is that she is legally blind. She has no vision out of her left eye and no peripheral vision. And her tumor came back in 2006. After another surgery that didn’t completely remove the tumor, and six weeks of radiation, Lori Campos had two choices — give up or move on.

She chose to move on.

“You still have to live,” she says.

And in her own way during all of her trials, she aided others’ lives as well, as she helped take care of both her parents until they passed.

“You can’t give up,” says Lori Campos. “You can’t sit at home and have pity on yourself. I can still do the majority of things — I can wash clothes, cut grass with a lawnmower, but I can’t cook. I was never a good cook anyway. It’s difficult for me to recognize people and I hope they understand why I may not acknowledge them.”

After all the crying, all the surgeries, her blindness, but most of all — all the faith, Lori Campos not only loves life, she lives life — to the fullest.

“I love God with all my heart and I thank God for giving me another day,” she says. “I’m not greedy; I want to see my son and my granddaughter Hailie Lucia do great things and I want to grow old with Pete.”

She is in her third semester of teaching Zumba at Luna. She also does yoga and takes a High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) class.



“You can’t give up. You can’t sit at home and have pity on yourself.”

Lori Campos

Zumba fitness instructor, Luna Community College,
on overcoming cancer

“God has given us a few extra years to be with her,” says Peter, now 26. “I can’t picture life without my mom. If there is such a thing as a superhero, that is what she is. A lot of people don’t realize what she continues to go through. She’s by far my biggest inspiration.”

Pete Campos echoes his son in admiration for Lori Campos.

“Lori inspires me every day to appreciate life because we never know what will happen from one moment to the next,” says Pete Campos. “Her deep faith, courage and positive attitude — after everything she has been through — serves as just one example to me why I love her with all my heart. Her strength has led us through some very tough times.”

Nineteen years later, if Lori Campos could have one thing, what would it be?

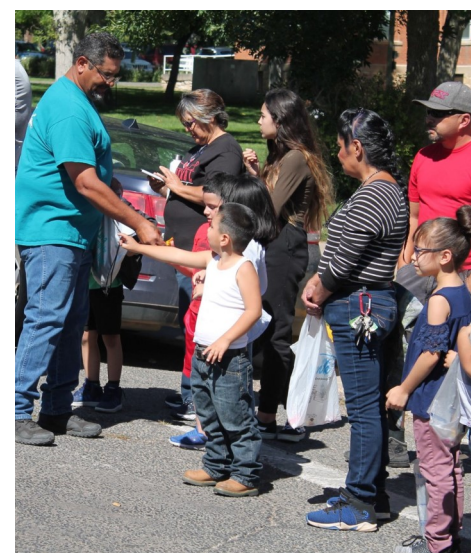
“I hope that one day I can wake up and see again,” she says.

Whether or not her vision will come back again, Lori Campos remains grateful and looks forward to making the most of every day. Even if she can’t physically see well, perhaps life is clearer now more than ever.



Parades rock Springer, Vegas





Team Luna showed its support for area schools by taking part in homecoming parades for Springer High School and Robertson High School Sept. 26 and 27. Luna's next planned parade is Oct. 18 in Santa Rosa, as the Lions celebrate their homecoming.

Luna participates in transition fair



Luna students, faculty and staff helped stage a successful 2019 Transition Fair this past week at NMHU. The fair is designed to provide valuable resources for children, youth and families with behavioral needs and disabilities. While no individual is excluded, the event's main focus is to educate and assist individuals with special needs. It is hosted in collaboration with representatives from Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Luna, NMHU, Robertson and West Las Vegas high schools.



Luna's Vocational Studies instructors and students demonstrate their areas of knowledge while representatives of the college's admissions and student services provide information at the fair.

Come check out the
Luna Community College

GAME ROOM!



Located in the Samuel F. Vigil Learning Resource Center, Room 102

Hours of operation:

Mondays	10:30-11:30 a.m.	1-5 p.m.
Tuesdays	11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	3-5 p.m.
Wednesdays	10:30-11:30 a.m.	1-5 p.m.
Thursdays	11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	3-5 p.m.
Fridays	10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	

Gibson...

Continued from Page 3

“It was a long time ago. I’ve always enjoyed it.”

In addition to pool, Gibson played Little League as well as volleyball and basketball when she was growing up. Today, she still plays baseball with her grandson, nieces and nephews.

Rick Jaramillo, her former supervisor at Luna, convinced her to take up organized, competitive pool back in the early 2000s. “He got me to do it, and I’ve been doing it ever since,” Gibson said.

“I enjoy the competitive part of it,” she said. “It’s just relaxing. I like the team atmosphere and also playing as a single for the competition, really.”

“From then to now, I’ve improved a lot,” she said. “I wish I had more time to practice.”

While she works three jobs and takes care of her 91-year-old mother, Gibson manages to play pool or billiards three times a week on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings – either with a women’s team or a coed group, of which she is a captain. As either a singles or team player, she has competed in Albuquerque, Colorado and Las Vegas, Nevada.

“I just want to improve my game more and more,” she said.

A native of Las Vegas, Gibson has worked at Luna a combined 26 years and is the SIS and ERP administrator, helping to keep the campus’ technological infrastructure running smoothly.

Heavy metal

Lorenzo Lujan displays the artwork — a full-scale guitar made of metal — he crafted with skills honed in welding classes at Luna Community College.



A cut above



Ben De Cordova, a professional stylist from Tampa, demonstrates some of his skills for students in Luna’s cosmetology and barbering programs, during a recent visit to campus.

2020 CENSUS! RECRUIT



**OCTOBER 23, 2019
11AM-2PM
Student Union Building**

FREE EVENT!

Sponsored by: **NMHU & Luna Community College**



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WWW.2020CENSUS.GOV/JOBS

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Governor visits Vegas

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham discussed her administration's recent and planned initiatives before a full house Tuesday, Oct. 1, at NMHU's Kennedy Lounge.

The governor spoke for approximately an hour, also fielding questions from audience members who packed the gallery and its immediate perimeter for a chance to interact with her.

"I am so honored by the turnout," she said. "I work for you."

Grisham noted that for several months running, New Mexico has been one of the top 10 states in growing economies. She said the state is looking to become an international leader in renewable energy.



Las Vegas and northeastern New Mexico, she said, will benefit from an estimated \$13 million state investment in roads and infrastructure here, an allocation for the New Mexico Behavioral Health Center, and a piece of the \$446 million invested in public education statewide, including hikes in teacher pay.

Local soup kitchen seeking your help

A local soup kitchen and food pantry is asking Luna employees and students for a helping hand.

Comedor de San Pascual, Inc., located at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall on the east side of the Plaza, is busier than ever and looking for some good, reliable help.

"Comedor de San Pascual is need of volunteers," wrote executive director Bonnie Bolton in a letter to Luna. "Our service to help the needy has grown larger than we can handle with our current staff."

Bolton said that they prepare and serve hot meals on

Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons for up to 90 people. In addition, they prepare 160 food pantry bags a week. All of Bolton's staff are non-paid.

"We are grateful to be able to make life better for those in need," wrote Bolton.

Volunteers can help prepare meals, fill food bags, clean up and simply be present to socialize with the men, women and children in the community seeking to be fed.

Volunteers are needed from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall. For details, call 505-617-8471.



Fight the Flu
It starts with you

FLU SHOT CLINIC

The LCC Nursing Students in cooperation with the New Mexico Public Health Department, San Miguel County will be providing free flu shots to healthy adults over the age of 18.

Location: Luna Community College

Allied Health Lobby

Date: October 17, 2019

Time: 9AM- 6 PM



Career Pathways Scholarship

Supporting highly motivated individuals pursuing a
**2-YEAR DEGREE,
CERTIFICATE
or TRADE.**

Are You:

- » A high school senior, high school graduate or GED recipient planning to pursue a 2-year degree, certificate, or trade?
- » Currently enrolled in a 2-year degree or certificate program?
- » Returning to school after being away from formal education?
- » Making a career change starting with a 2-year degree or certificate in a new field?

We Can Help

Career Pathways Scholarships are **\$1,500 awards** renewable for a second year (**\$3,000 total**).

Must be a resident of Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe, or Taos County. Funds are available for any program area, but preference may be given to STEM pathways.

Specific awards are designated for students pursuing a degree in teaching, Los Alamos County Police Department employees and immediate family members, and descendants of Abiquiú Land Grant families.

Apply Now

lanlfoundation.org/scholarships

Application deadline is November 17, 2019 for fall awards and April 19, 2020 for spring.

For more information, contact Mike Ammerman at 505-753-8890 ext. 115, scholarships@lanlfoundation.org



Career Pathways Scholarship

FOCUS • DRIVE • MASTERY

A LANL Foundation program in partnership with Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund (LAESF) Advisory Committee.

Pursuing a 2-Year Degree or Certification?

You May Qualify for a Career Pathways Scholarship!

Career Pathways Scholars are focused and determined, with a clear vision of the career or trade they intend to pursue. They are highly motivated to gain the skills and credentials needed to enter the workforce in their career of choice, with the primary goal of improving quality of life for themselves, their family, and their community. This scholarship supports high school seniors and anyone with a high school diploma or GED/High School Equivalency (HSE) in pursuit of a 2-year degree, trade, or certificate.

Eligibility Requirements

- » Must be a resident of the seven-county area of Northern New Mexico (Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe, or Taos).
- » Must have received a high school diploma or GED, or be
 - near completion of a GED/HSE program, or
 - a high school senior currently enrolled in the final semester of high school.
- » Preference may be given to students pursuing programs related to science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and related vocations, although strong applications in **any program area** will be considered.
- » Specific awards are designated for
 - students pursuing a degree in **teaching**,
 - **Los Alamos County Police Department** employees and immediate family members, and
 - descendants of **Abiquiú Land Grant families**.

Selection Process

Selection is primarily based on demonstrated interest and ability to succeed in the chosen field of study. Emphasis is also placed on initiative and commitment.

Scholarships are \$1,500 awards that are renewable for a second year (\$3,000 total) without the need to reapply. Renewal is dependent upon remaining in good academic standing and making progress toward completion.

Application & Deadline

Application and instructions are available online at lanlfoundation.org/scholarships.

Career Pathways Scholarships are offered twice yearly. November 17, 2019 is the deadline for the fall 2019 awards. April 19 is the deadline for spring 2020.



Mingma Sherpa 2019 Scholar Studying Nursing at Santa Fe Community College

As a part-time caregiver, it is hard to provide for myself and my family and afford college tuition. The Career Pathways Scholarship helps me pursue my goals and dreams without worrying about financial hardships. My goal is to complete my AAS Nursing degree from the Santa Fe Community College. I have a strong desire to become a compassionate and skillful nurse to provide excellent care and health education for my family and community.

For more information visit lanlfoundation.org/scholarships or contact Mike Ammerman at 505-753-8890 or scholarships@lanlfoundation.org.

Career Pathways Scholarship

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**formerly the Regional College of Returning Student Scholarship*

A LANL Foundation program in partnership with Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund (LAESF) Advisory Committee.