

Working through it all



Left: Luna student Isaiah Dominquez grinds a 22.5 degree edge for a test plate as instructor Gene Martinez provides guidance.

Right: Luna student Joshua Montoya is saw cutting coupons to form his test plate for destructive testing and certification.

Welding program continuing to educate students

Luna Community College’s welding program continues to do its part to assist its students and put them in a better position to find work in the industry.

Luna’s welding instructor Gene Martinez is teaching five classes this fall semester: Introduction to welding, Welding Level I, Welding Level II, Pipe and Plate Code Test, and Vocational Education 109 (OSHA Safety).

“I have 10 students each in various levels of the program,” said Martinez. “All of my students are

social distancing and using their PPE (personal protective equipment). At the beginning I was teaching half of my students online. (Since) the restrictions eased, I have all my students in class.”

Martinez said Luna is working through issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“My students feel that online learning has too many limitations,” said Martinez. “It’s a lot better to teach learning basic shop management, welding sciences and welding techniques in a live class

setting.”

Martinez said New Mexico is expected to add 1,000 welding jobs per year over the next decade.

“Many of my students will most likely move out of the city or state to find work,” said Martinez. “A few have expressed (interest in) creating their own business. “I advise my students to have a developed plan for their career or their business.”

Martinez said several Luna students recently tested and passed their American Welders Society certification.

Veterans to be honored Nov. 11

Luna Community College will honor veterans a little differently this year.

Instead of inviting the community to be physically present for a recognition ceremony on campus, the public is invited to join officials for a live stream on Facebook.

The ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

“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

Facebook live event available to public

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.”

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

“Due to the unfortunate, but necessary, limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot honor our community veterans in person on this Veterans Day, but we still 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 are honored to host a virtual Veterans Day ceremony, and hope we will still be able to honor you and have you join us virtually in the comfort and warmth of your homes this year!”

The recognition ceremony will consist of a wreath laying ceremony and recognition of veterans with honor guards in attendance.

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

To view the live stream, log on to [Facebook.com/Luna Community College](https://www.facebook.com/LunaCommunityCollege).

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



Las Vegas-area veterans accept gifts and hugs from children during the 2019 Veterans Day recognition ceremonies at Luna. This year's event will be available online via the college's Facebook page.

File photo

Search firm to be enlisted

In its search for the college's next president, Luna Community College will enlist the services of an outside search firm.

At its Oct. 13 meeting, Luna's Board of Trustees agreed to issue an informal request for proposals for the search firm. Trustees will meet on Nov. 5 to listen to and review presentations from qualifying firms. The board's eventual choice will manage the search, although 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.

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Luna expects to learn of its accreditation status within the next month. The Higher Learning Commission Board of Trustees is due to meet in November, and the

college's accreditation is among the items it will decide.

Patterson said he is "very encouraged" by initial feedback from the HLC site-visit team.

Luna has been on probation since the end of June 2018. The HLC extended the probation in November 2019, recognizing progress the college has made and allowing the college more time to address areas of non-compliance. Most recently, the college prepared a focused report and hosted a focused site visit with an HLC team Sept. 10-11.

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Patterson reported that Luna has maintained stringent protocols for sanitization, social distancing, mask wearing and daily screening for all students, employees and visitors. This, he said, has enabled the college to fare relatively well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Patterson said the college is considering its options in terms of home fields for its baseball and softball teams — whether to continue or develop agreements for use of venues in town, whether to pursue venues out of town, and whether to schedule all road games for the coming season. A caveat to any plans is the ever-changing state of COVID-19 in the U.S. and New Mexico. While the National Junior College Athletic Association has tentatively greenlighted the spring 2021 sports schedule, high COVID rates could put those plans in jeopardy.

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Several major vacancies, including that of the registrar and the director of institutional effectiveness and reporting (formerly institutional research), remain active search processes. Luna trustees asked for descriptions of policies and procedures related to hiring, and these were provided by Carolyn Chavez, director of human resources.

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Student senate: A student senate body has been seated for the school year, with Mario Romero as presiding officer. The senate has a new advisor in Kimberly Baca, a humanities instructor.

Staff senate: Georgia Baca, formerly vice chairman of the staff senate, has recently assumed the role as chairman, succeeding Amanda Lucero. Matthew Cordova has accepted a nomination to serve as vice chairman. The body will discuss the grievance process and is reviewing its bylaws to make any revisions as necessary.

Faculty senate: Jason Killian called it a "stable" time for faculty senate. The senate is conducting a review of its bylaws.

Shared governance council: Gloria Pacheco has agreed to serve as minute-taker for the SGC. As of press time, the SGC was in the process of filling its officer vacancies. Kimberly Baca recently resigned as chairman to advise student senate.



Luna takes part in CROP Hunger Walk

Luna Community College softball players and coaches and several employees took part in a CROP Hunger Walk on Wednesday, Oct. 14. COVID-19 regulations were followed.

The walk, which raises funds for humanitarian relief efforts, circled the Luna campus, a nearly 1-mile lap. Head coach Steve Wallace believes in having his team participate in

community service projects.

To donate to the cause, you are welcome to make a check or money order to CWS/CROP and send to Patrick Rucker, CROP Treasurer, c/o First United Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 37, Las Vegas, NM, 87701. Alternately, you may donate online at crophungerwalk.org/lasvegasnm



Luna students can learn business skills (and earn cash) through free seminars

Luna Community College students can earn \$10-per-hour stipends – and gain valuable insights on creating, building and growing their own businesses – through an innovative new partnership this semester.

Students who enroll in and complete a Small Business Development Center business development seminar/workshop will be eligible to receive the stipends, which are funded through a grant. More importantly, the workshops provide education and training that will help budding entrepreneurs and others interested in potential business opportunities.

“This is a win-win for students at LCC,” said Francisco Apodaca, director of Luna’s Science,

Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Department. “They can make some cash while earning a Certificate of Completion that can be used on their resumé when applying for a job – or use the knowledge they gain to possibly start a small business venture. These classes can possibly give the students an advantage over others when applying for a job.”

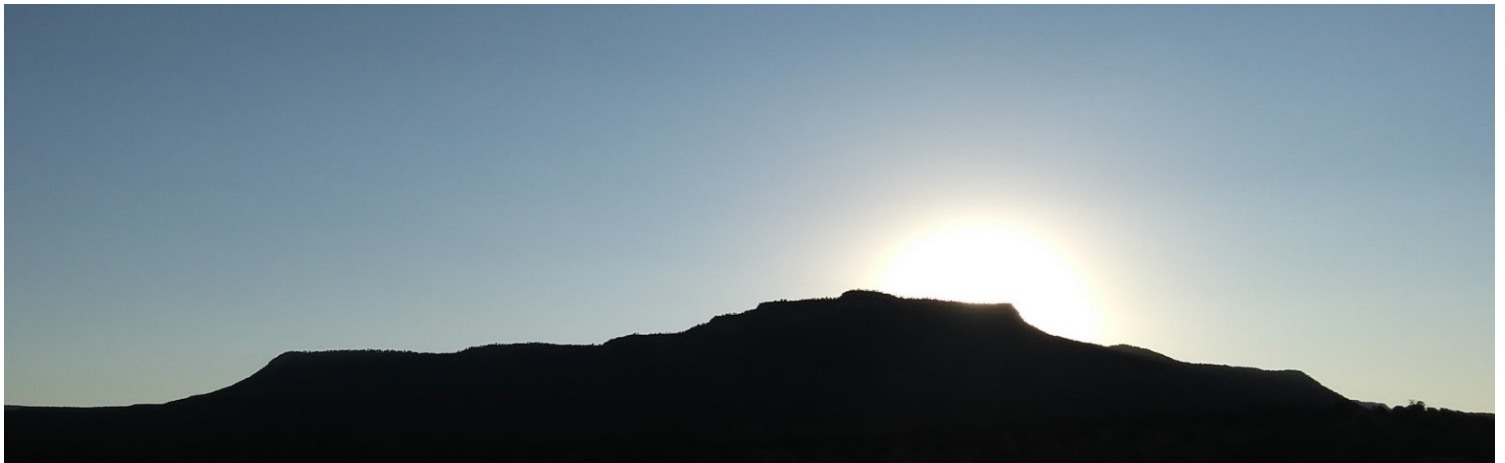
Seminars will be fully online and will range from one to four hours each, with topics like “how to start a small business” and “small business bookkeeping.” Each class session is self-contained.

Any Luna student is eligible to participate. Those who register for the seminars and complete them will receive a Certificate of Completion.

Those who can provide a copy of the certificate will be eligible to receive the stipend, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The program is being coordinated through Luna’s STEM and Business departments in conjunction with the college’s Small Business Development Center and the state SBDC. It is part of a grant funded through the Regional Development Corporation, supported by Triad and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

•For more information on enrollment in the non-credit seminars, please contact STEM Director Francisco Apodaca, fapodaca@luna.edu.

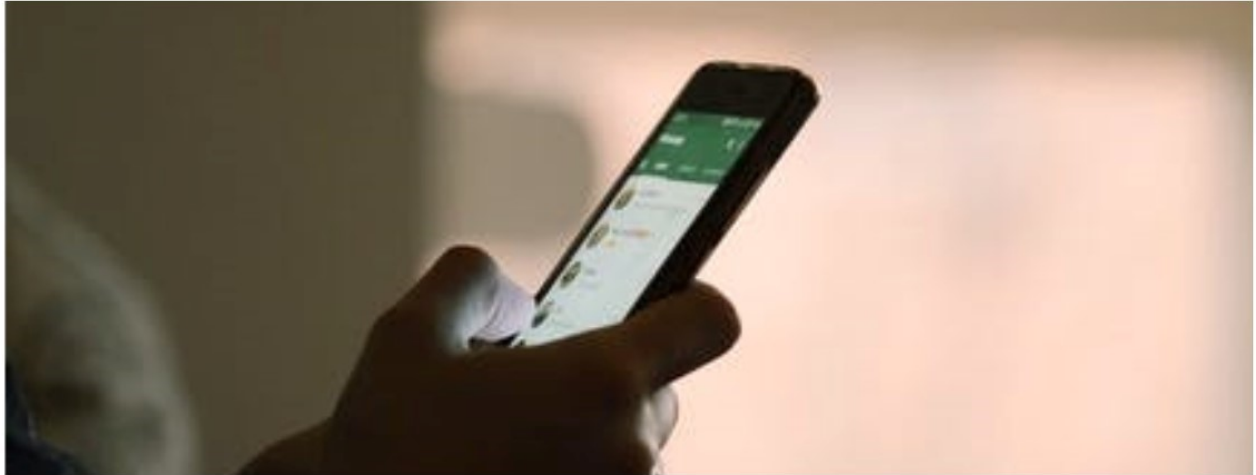


This sunset photo was taken in San Jose recently.

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

Stay connected this school year!



Luna RAVE alerts notify subscribers — via text message — about campus closures or delays due to inclement weather as well as other urgent matters.

To sign up for RAVE, visit the Students tab at luna.edu. There is no additional charge for this service. Standard messaging rates apply. Opt out at any time by texting STOP to 226787.



Luna board extends Patterson's contract as interim president

Luna Community College interim President Dr. Kenneth Patterson will continue to serve in that capacity for at least an additional four months, the college's governing board decided on Tuesday.

The Luna Board of Trustees unanimously approved a four-month extension to Patterson's current contract as interim president with a review of agreed-upon performance indicators by the end of the contract period. Trustees took that step as the lone action item in a special board meeting Tuesday afternoon.

The board has voted to issue an informal request for proposals for an outside firm to assist in conducting a presidential search. Trustees will consider proposals in a special meeting on Thursday, Nov. 5.

Patterson has been with the college as its vice president of instruction and student services since September 2019. He was appointed interim president in June.

"I'm honored that the Luna Community College Board of Trustees has offered an extension of my current contract as interim president," Patterson said after Tuesday's meeting. "As Luna finds herself at a pivotal point in providing educational and workforce programs for north-east New Mexico, there is an ongoing need for stability and a vision of what can become reality.

We take great pride in a governing board that is eagerly focused on realizing a greater potential of the college, faculty and staff who work to mentor and develop learners, and students who pursue opportunities that lead them into success in the workforce or further into higher education.

Working together, we all contribute to a bright future filled with opportunities. I'm certainly privileged to hold such a position of leadership at this point in the life of Luna, and I anticipate the great days ahead of us."



The main campus at Luna Community College along with most areas in northern New Mexico got much-needed snow recently. To get information on weather delays, closures and other important information at Luna, please sign up with the college's RAVE system. Other sources of up-to-date information can also be found on the college's Facebook page and website.

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**

*Many people with COVID-19 do not experience symptoms

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
COVID-19 HOTLINE

1-855-600-3453

Available 24/7

NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

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.



DISTRACTED DRIVING *know the facts!*



Distracted driving is **any activity** that could divert a **person's attention** away from the primary task of **driving**.

**Remote Learning
Should Never
Happen While
DRIVING!**



THERE ARE **3** MAIN TYPES OF *distraction*



visual

taking your eyes off the road



manual

taking your hands off the wheel



cognitive

taking your mind off what you are doing

Luna school-age support classroom enjoys campus activities



Luna staff members and teachers take their students on walks to explore the campus and enjoy different games. The program is following COVID-19 protocols such as washing of hands, checking temperatures, social distancing and wearing face coverings. For more information on the Luna Early Childhood Education Department and Preschool please call 505-454-2504 or 505-454-2535.

It was really simple

I remember, back in college, the majority of us were out of our homes for the first time. We learned as we went.

It was interesting to meet and talk with people from different parts of the United States and several countries. College is not only a place of learning via textbooks or lectures; it is also a place of growing up in other aspects of your life. Like in most things, there are many triumphs and struggles that come with it.

One of my best friends was a great basketball player for our college. He was a first-generation American from the El Paso area. His parents had migrated from Mexico years before.

*By Jesse Gallegos
A Different
Perspective*

One day he met the love of his life — a young lady from Minnesota. She was also a gifted student-athlete on one of the college's sports teams. My friend would always tell me that he would marry her one day. And why not? They both seemed compatible and good for each other. More importantly, as time went along, they fell in love with one another.

Eventually one thing led to the other, and eventually he proposed. And she accepted. The story doesn't necessarily end here. In many ways, it just had begun.

See, my friend was a Hispanic and his wife-to-be was white.

MORE: See Page 12



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.
Thursday, Dec. 3	1:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 4	8:30 a.m.

Contact: Yvonne Piña
505-454-2525
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.

Simple

Continued from Page 11

Both his and her parents weren't good with it. In their own ways, they would have preferred that their relationship would go on a different path. The picture of them being married was marred by bias. They simply didn't want it to happen.

To their credit, regardless of their parents' opinions, they stayed together. It was their lives they were going to live, not their parents' wishes, they said.

They were simply happy.

As time went by, they became a popular couple; everyone at school liked them and didn't think twice that they both came from different backgrounds and cultures. Right after college, they were married. Unfortunately, neither his nor her parents attended the ceremony. Both sets of parents were still angry and protested their relationship and especially the concept that they would be together for the rest of their lives.

It was at the point that neither my good friend nor his wife could invite their spouse when they visited their respective homes.

After a couple of years, they had

their first child, a baby girl. She was beautiful. She had dark hair and blue eyes. I got a chance to visit them one day. By that time, their baby girl was about 18 months old.

She didn't refer to her father as the Hispanic man from El Paso or her mom as the white lady from Minnesota. She simply called them mommy and daddy. She had no bias or criticism. She loved both her parents equally.

Eventually everything was fine for both my friend's and his wife's parents. It took the innocence of a child to bring everyone together. It was really simple.

Join our team and help us serve our communities!

Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

FULL-TIME

- Senior financial aid advisor ... opened Oct. 9, 2020
- Institutional Effectiveness and Research director ... opened July 28, 2020; re-posted Oct. 8, 2020
- Registrar ... opened July 27, 2020; re-posted Oct. 1, 2020
- Career & Technical Education director ... opened Sept. 24, 2020
- Early Childhood Education teacher 2 ... opened Sept. 24, 2020
- College & Career Readiness Institute manager ... opened Sept. 17, 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
- Education — early childhood education instructor ... opened July 10, 2019
- Career & Technical Education — collision repair instructor ... opened June 6, 2018
- Allied Health Sciences — EMT instructor ... opened Feb. 15, 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>

