

New look for Luna board

Newly elected members of the Luna Community College Board of Trustees were sworn in by Municipal Judge Eddie Trujillo at a special meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 7. Pictured (from left) are Trustee Mark Dominguez, Board Chairman Dr. Phyllis Martinez, Trustee Kenneth Medina, Trujillo, Trustee Maxine Salas, Secretary Louise Portillos, Vice Chairman Dianna Medrano and Trustee Maximiliano Tenorio Jr.



Trustees kick off 2020 with five new board members

Luna Community College officially welcomed five new members to its governing body in a special LCC Board of Trustees meeting on Jan. 7.

For the first time in school history, the board has a female majority after the election of Dr. Phyllis Martinez, Dianna Medrano, Louise Portillos and Maxine Salas in November. Also new to the board is Maximiliano Tenorio Jr.

Those five join Mark Dominguez and Kenneth Medina, who were re-

elected to their positions on the board.

All seven took part in a swearing-in ceremony administered by Las Vegas Municipal Judge Eddie Trujillo to kick off the Jan. 7 special meeting. Family and friends of the trustees were among those present for the occasion.

Via unanimous votes, Martinez was elected the new chairman of the board, Medrano the vice chairman and Portillos the secretary.

Martinez, who represents District 3 (Mora Independent Schools), succeeds Ernie Chavez in the district and inherits the chairman's gavel from Daniel Romero.

Medrano, who represents District 5 (Las Vegas City Schools), succeeds

Julian Jaramillo and follows Medina as vice chairman.

Portillos, who represents District 6 (Springer, Wagon Mound, Maxwell school districts), succeeds Martin Gonzales and takes over as secretary for Chavez.

Tenorio, who represents District 4 (Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools), succeeds Eugenio Perez. Salas, who represents District 7 (West Las Vegas Schools), succeeds Romero.

Medina and Dominguez return to their seats in Districts 1 and 2, the LVCS and WLVS districts, respectively.

Vigil was iconic figure

Longtime lawmaker
was Luna president
for 25 years

Along with New Mexicans across the state, Luna Community College was saddened to learn of the death of Samuel F. Vigil in December.

“On behalf of the entire Luna campus community, we extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Samuel F. Vigil,” said LCC President Dr. Rolando Rael. “He was an important leader who worked diligently for this college, this community and all of northeastern New Mexico. I was glad to know Sam as a person. He will be missed, and he will be remembered for the good things he accomplished, as well as his heart for helping students and his community.”

Vigil, 90, died on Dec. 8. Following services at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, of which he was an active parishioner, Vigil was laid to rest at the Santa Fe National Cemetery.

A lifelong Las Vegas, Vigil served 28 years (1970-1998) as a Democratic state legislator representing District 70 in San Miguel County and northeastern New Mexico. An early champion of higher education and opening doors of opportunity for all, he became the longest-serving president of the



former Luna Vocational Technical Institute (what is today Luna Community College) for nearly a quarter century.

Before his rise to acclaim in both positions, Vigil served as a member of the Consolidation Commission that united East and West Las Vegas

in 1968. Consolidation ended what historians called a long period of racial and social divide in the Meadow City and forged one unified municipality. Vigil was a veteran of the U.S. Army who served during the Korean War, then as part of the

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National Guard. He worked in various capacities in public schools and postsecondary institutions such as New Mexico Highlands University, his alma mater. He is a former dean of students at NMHU and a former director of the First National Bank in Las Vegas.

As a lawmaker, Vigil helped secure millions of dollars in capital outlay funding for his district. He supported funding for education, the courts, social service programs and infrastructure. Along the way he served as chairman of the House Education Committee and as part of the Legislative Finance Committee.

Vigil was a major figure in the creation of what was then known as Luna Vocational Technical Institute, serving on a task force appointed by Gov. Dave Cargo that helped establish the college. In 1976, Vigil was hired as president of the college, and he led Luna until 1999.

During his time as president of Luna, Vigil testified before the U.S. Senate's Committee on the Budget, speaking on the importance of education funding in a March 1988 hearing:

“Public investment in education creates wealth and increases productivity ... Education should be viewed as the real and productive investment in human capital that it is, and certainly not just a social program or activity ... The provision

“Public investment in education creates wealth and increases productivity ... Education should be viewed as the real and productive investment in human capital that it is, and certainly not as just a social program or activity.”

Samuel F. Vigil

Then-Luna Community College president
In testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget
March 1988

of a sound educational system is one of a handful of investments that the public sector makes in our economy ... This investment in education must be continuously fine-tuned to reflect the changing times and thereby produce a higher rate of return ... The basic business of state government, in my opinion, is to provide quality education to its population, maintain their infrastructure and create a stable fiscal environment.”

“We must increase the understanding and awareness of the populations. We must develop and maintain educational programs which increase citizens’ understanding of an internationally competitive economy and knowledge of other cultures, language and social systems.”

Vigil was later appointed by President Bill Clinton to the President’s Commission for Excellence of Education for Hispanic-American Students. He was also appointed to the Advisory Committee on Education to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Among Vigil’s legacy of accomplishments and honors, Luna’s library bears his name as the Samuel F. Vigil Learning Resource Center.

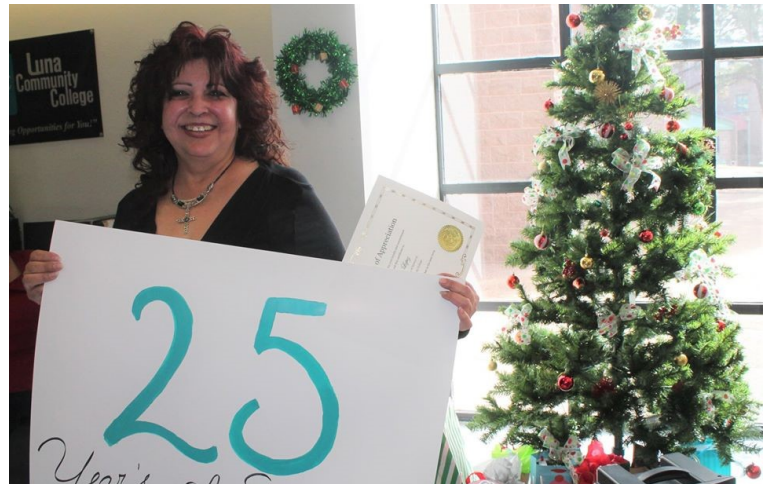
Vigil is survived by Aurora Vigil, his wife of 66 years; daughters Martha (Donald) and Marcia (Patrick); son Michael; two grandchildren, Amaris and Marisa; and many other relatives and friends.

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



Above left: Staff Senate's Amanda Lucero presents Elaine Montano a special pin and certificate saluting her 35 years of service. Below, Georgia Baca and June Lopez accept applause for 20 and 25 years, respectively. Pictured in the top photo are Ignacia Herrera, Karen Wezwick, Robert Arrellin and Sheryl Yara.



Employees mark milestones

Luna Community College's Staff Advisory Senate honored employees for their years of service to the college as part of an annual recognition luncheon and in-service on Dec. 11 at Café de Luna.

Topping the list of honorees was Elaine Montano, who passed the 35-year mark this past year. Montano is

administrative assistant in the Nursing Department.

The senate similarly recognized others who have hit milestones for five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years. Other employees who have completed at least one year on the job received certificates.

Additionally, Dr. Kenneth

Patterson, vice president for instruction and student affairs, updated those in attendance on the latest developments and initiatives.

The luncheon was a potluck and included an ornament exchange and ugly sweater contest. Sheryl Yara's sweater, featuring a mariachi Santa, took the top prize.

Forums starting in February

Luna Community College is taking its show on the road with a series of public forums at each of its campus locations starting this February.

The Springer satellite will host a forum from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20. Similar forums will be scheduled for Mora, Santa Rosa and the Las Vegas campus at

dates to be announced.

“This is part of our outreach to the communities we serve,” said Luna Public Relations Coordinator Jesse Gallegos. “The purpose of these forums is to provide community members the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about our programs.”

Luna President Dr. Rolando Rael

and trustees from each district are scheduled to appear. Light refreshments will be served.

All community members, including current or prospective students, are welcome to attend. High school students are highly-encouraged to attend.

New year's resolution:



Invest in your future.

We can help you make 2020 your best year yet. Sign up for Spring 2020 at Luna Community College. Classes start Jan. 13, and registration for the spring semester continues through Jan. 28.

Students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisors to learn about degree and certificate requirements and to formulate Spring 2020 schedules. Students must also

clear their classes with the fiscal office/cashier to ensure they remain enrolled.

To view the Spring 2020 schedule, visit the Luna website at luna.edu, then go to Courses on the top right-hand side. After you click on Courses, you will find the Schedule of Classes.

For more information, contact the registrar's office at 505-454-2548 or registrar@luna.edu.



Legislature opens Jan. 21 in Santa Fe

Supporters of Luna Community College will join others from across New Mexico in tuning in when the 54th state legislative session begins at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 21, in Santa Fe.

This year's legislature is a 30-day session, which means budget items take priority. Deadline for introduction of legislation is Feb. 5, and the session comes to a close at noon on Thursday, Feb. 20.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham will have until March 11 to act on legislation; anything not signed into law by that point will be considered pocket-vetoed. Unless otherwise specified, bills passed and signed will take effect on May 20. General appropriations bills and those with emergency clauses are exceptions.

Las Vegas Day at the Legislature, which will include presentations by Luna and other area entities, is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 17, at the Roundhouse.

During the session, the Luna Light will feature regular updates on legislation of interest to the college.



Trustees sworn in Jan. 7, from top: Dianna Medrano, Maximiliano Tenorio Jr., Kenneth Medina, Mark Dominguez, and (facing page) Maxine Salas, Louise Portillos and Dr. Phyllis Martinez.

Trustees take posts, pledge unity

Newly elected members of the Luna Community College Board of Trustees were sworn in by Municipal Judge Eddie Trujillo at a special meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 7.



Don't get disenrolled

from Spring 2020 classes!

Make sure to visit the Cashier's Office on or before Jan. 15, 2020, to ensure your registration is secure!

ONLINE PAYMENTS

Pay online with a debit/credit card. Log onto LCC Pathways — Online Services Web Portal.

LCC PAYMENT PLAN

Payment plans allow you to pay your tuition in up to three installments. A \$25 minimum down payment is required to secure your enrollment. Any schedule changes you make during the add-drop period may result in additional charges.

OTHER SOURCE OF PAYMENT: EMPLOYER THIRD-PARTY

Completed authorizations must be submitted to the Cashier's Office.

← PAYMENT OPTIONS



IN-PERSON PAYMENTS

If you are paying by cash, money order, personal check, credit or debit card, you may pay in person at the Cashier's window during business hours, or call 505-454-2506 to pay by card.

CREDIT AUTHORIZATION FORM, FINANCIAL AID

Visit the Financial Aid Office to complete all your financial aid paperwork early and submit a copy of your Credit Authorization Form or Waiver to the Cashier's Office.



Join us for Luna Night in Springer

A public forum
Feb. 20



WHAT: A public forum with
Luna Community College

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 20,
6-7:30 p.m.

WHERE: LCC Springer satellite

- Meet your new District 6 LCC Board of Trustees representative, Louise Portillos, and Luna President Dr. Rolando Rael!
- Learn more about the college and its offerings as well as its commitment to Springer and the rest of District 6!
- Bring any related questions you may have!
- Refreshments to be served!





Faculty and staff from the Luna Vocational Education Department pose with the four bicycles they donated to area children through CYFD’s gingerbread man wish list giveaway for the holiday season. Pictured from left: Gene Sandoval, Paul Vance, Gene Martinez, Germaine Sandoval, Geno Castillo, Andrea Herrera-Gabaldon, Anthony Baca, Clarice Bonney, Hope Sandoval and Karen Wezwick. Not pictured: Louie Benavidez, Lin Chibante, Florencio Garcia, Stormi Miller and Louie Plagge.

Holiday spirit

Luna’s “Up” themed float and a small, brave contingent of employees and family members represented the college in the 2019 Las Vegas Electric Light Parade on Dec. 14.





**Department of
Vocational Education**



OSHA 10 — Safety Certification Course
is now available at Luna Community College.
Course dates to be announced.

For more information, please contact:
Louie Plagge



WELCOME BACK

Tuesday

COOKIES & COFFEE (9 a.m.)

Student Services Building

Wednesday

PIZZA & DRINKS (11:30 a.m.)

Luna Spirit Day

Café de Luna coffee shop

Thursday

POPCORN & DRINKS (9 a.m.)

Student Services Building



January 13-17, 2020

January 13-17, 2020

**FOOD
DRINKS
— AND —
FUN**

Welcome Back Week

Welcome Back Week

Sponsored by LCC Office of Campus Life