



The latest news from Luna Community College

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Luna began its 2023 fall semester on Monday, Aug. 21. There is still time to register for the fall semester. The last day to register is Monday, Aug. 28. Have a great semester Luna! For more information on Luna, visit our website at luna.edu or call 505-454-2500. In the above photo, STEM faculty Geno Castillo teaches an Algebra class.

Luna's SBDC to host Northern N.M. Small Business Conference

Luna Community College's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will host a 2023 Northern New Mexico Small Business Conference on Thursday, Aug. 24 at the college's Media Arts Auditorium.

"The Northern New Mexico Small Business Conference serves as an ecosystem of support, empowerment, and achievement to uplift entrepreneurs by providing them with the resources, inspiration, and insights needed to shape a thriving and resilient future for their businesses and communities," says Briana Montano-Baca, SBDC's associate director.

Montano-Baca says by bringing together industry experts, thought leaders, and aspiring entrepreneurs, the conference will aspire to foster an environment where every attendee can flourish, grow their business, and contribute to the economic prosperity of their community.

The Small Business Conference is committed to delivering information that equips attendees with the practical tools and expertise to overcome challenges and seize opportunities. Through expert speakers, interactive workshops, and valuable resources, the conference aims to foster a culture of continuous learning, enabling participants to enhance their skills, expand their knowledge base, and stay ahead of the curve.

In addition, the Small Business Conference recognizes the power of networking and collaboration in fostering business growth. The conference serves as a vibrant hub for like-minded individuals, creating an environment that facilitates meaningful connections and valued relationships. This conference will provide networking opportunities, informal gatherings that allow attendees to forge

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August 28**

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SBDC to host...

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partnerships, share experiences, and access a diverse business community of professionals, mentors and potential collaborators.

Montano-Baca says that attendees will not be disappointed.

“We believe that inspiration is the fuel that ignites entrepreneurial spirit and fuels success through thought-provoking keynote speeches, motivational stories,” says Montano-Baca.

“With real-life experiences, we aim to inspire and uplift attendees, igniting their passion, resilience, and drive. Our conference endeavors to spark innovative thinking, promote creativity, and instill a growth mindset that propels participants to reach new heights in their business endeavors.”

There will be two keynote speakers, Vera Jo Bustos and Keanu Trujillo. Vera Jo Bustos, a northern New Mexico native, is a mental performance coach specializing in helping students, educators, business professionals and coaches improve their performance through the mental game. She has worked with professional athletes, coaches, veterans, surgeons, businesses, and business professionals. A highly sought-after speaker, she travels the country inspiring, motivating, and teaching the mental game to athletes, high-performers, teams, and coaches—of all ages, ability levels, and sports—at conferences, conventions, workshops, school assemblies, and 1-on-1 training.

“With real-life experiences, we aim to inspire and uplift attendees, igniting their passion, resilience, and drive,”—Montano -Baca

Trujillo, a northern New Mexico native, will speak passionately about attracting and inspiring top-level talent, building a scalable generational business, and adopting mindsets of stewardship and drive to shift the trajectory of your family lineage. Beyond coaching, Keanu

founded “Strategy House” a co-working entrepreneurial workspace to help others start and build their own business. Trujillo was the first person in his family to start a business and that wouldn’t

have been possible if not for veteran entrepreneurs who made a way for him.

Doors will open at 8 a.m. for vendor registration and set up, attendee registration is from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. with welcome and introduction beginning at 9 a.m. Lunch will be served from noon to 1 p.m. with breakout training and workshops taking place from 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and 3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

“We are gathering some of the brightest minds in the business industry in New Mexico under one roof. This event is designed for small business entrepreneurs who are hungry for knowledge, growth and connection,” said Montano-Baca.

You may register early at <https://nmsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/13736>.

For more information, call Montano-Baca at 505-454-5349.

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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Dr. Norma Guzman Duran is Luna's new VP of Instruction and Student Services

Dr. Norma Guzman Duran is Luna Community College's new Vice President of Instruction and Student Services. She will officially begin at Luna on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

She has cultivated her career in higher education in Texas and Colorado for 17 years. She has worked for Texas A&M University, Dallas College, Lone Star College, Tarrant County College and Colorado Mountain College.

She graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering in 2005. She then continued her studies and completed a Master's in Business Administration in 2015 from Western Governor's University and in 2020 graduated with a Doctorate in Education with an emphasis in Community College Leadership from National American University. Her dissertation topic titled "An Exploration of Factors Cultivating Health Science 2-Year Degree Completion for Latinos" helped her refine her goal to create awareness of 2-year career and technical degrees.

"We are very happy to have Dr. Guzman Duran join our Luna family," said Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez. "Her experience in higher education and expertise in student success will assist Luna in moving forward. Luna is very fortunate to have someone like Dr. Guzman Duran."

Among her areas of expertise are industry partnerships, strategic and systematic planning, accreditation, strategic diversity, evidence-based decision-making, experiential learning, program and faculty development.

Dr. Guzman Duran is currently the dean of the school of business and assistant professor at Colorado Mountain College where she manages 14 bachelor, associate and certificate programs across eleven locations. Among her accomplishments, she has increased the number of full-time faculty and diversity by 50 percent in the school of business, hired a faculty team that represents the community and industry skills, such as bilingual, certified public accounting, rural agriculture, environmental economists, data scientists, with teaching and learning backgrounds. In addition, she has hired current



Dr. Norma Guzman Duran

students as paid interns in the school of business to complete strategic planning projects for academic credit.

Impressively, she has conducted an employer survey [2022 State of the Labor Market Summit Report](#) across the entire Colorado Mountain College footprint to determine regional state and national employer needs regarding critical occupations, competencies and workforce skills. She has also conducted student-focus groups to determine student's needs barriers, assessment, and engagement in their workforce readiness development. In addition, she has used data to inform and expand course offerings to meet student needs in all modalities, hybrid, face-to-face for all business programs.

She has won several awards and has several recognitions in higher education including a Trinity River Team Spirit Award, Innovation of the Year Team Award, Hispanic Women in Leadership and a Texas A&M University President's Meritorious

Award. She has also participated in several leadership institutes such as the American Council on Education academic Management Institute, American Association of Community College: Future Leaders Institute, Workforce Development and Women in Higher Education Leadership Institute and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Quality Enhancement and Accreditation Institute.

"My mission in life is to help emerging majority, underrepresented students to reach their potential, examine their career and academic opportunities, and guide students to graduating with degrees that help them enter the workforce and remain competitive with high wage potential," says Dr. Guzman Duran. "I am excited to work at Luna Community College and I am looking forward to meeting all the stakeholders."

In her free time, she loves hiking, mountain biking, teaching and dancing salsa. One of her most precious accomplishments is raising her son 2nd Lt. Hugo Duran an F-16 fighter pilot serving in the United States Air Force currently based in Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Luna welcomes Dominique Garcia as the new automotive collision repair instructor. He will be teaching several automotive collision repair classes this semester. For more information, please call Garcia at 505-470-1085.



Luna nursing students in their first day of class.

Luna students, employees enjoy orientation, first week of classes





Welcome and have a great semester!



Employment opportunities

Wildfire Resiliency Training Center Director

Wildfires are growing worse every year - both bigger and more frequent. To combat the devastation, we need more people with the skills and expertise to mitigate the dangers and implement recovery for lands, forests, water and communities. Luna Community College is opening a Wildfire Resiliency Training Center. If you would like to lead this important work and apply for the Wildfire Resiliency Training Center Director position contact Dr. Day at 505-454-5378 to discuss the Center and the position in more detail. You may also visit luna.edu and click on the About link and then click on the Employment Opportunities link.

Vice President for Finance and Administration

This position serves as the Luna Community College (LCC) treasurer and chief financial officer, charged with maintaining the fiscal integrity of the College. This position is responsible for the planning, implementation, and management of all financial activities, including business and strategic planning, budgeting, internal and external auditing, contract management, forecasting and negotiations for financial affairs and administrative services. Develops short and long-term plans for the Finance and Administration (F & A) areas. For more information, visit luna.edu and click on the About link and then click on the Employment Opportunities link.



Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez gave a presentation at the Preservation Through Community & Family event on Thursday, Aug. 10 at the Media Education Center Auditorium. Dr. Martinez was one of several guest speakers at the event which focused on recognizing the importance of heritage, home and the traditional methods of adobe restoration. The event was sponsored by the Luna Community College Foundation.

Nursing students receive information on how to be successful from Yvonne Pina, student success coach.

