



Strategic Goal 6: Cultivate and strengthen public and private partnerships to support students.

Luna Community College's Strategic Goal 6, "Cultivate and strengthen public and private partnerships to support students," has been a key focus, leading to a diverse range of collaborations that benefit the college and the wider community.

Key Accomplishments

- **Diverse Community Collaborations:**
 - **Local Government and Business:** The college signed an MOU with the City of Las Vegas for the use of **Rodriguez Park** for athletics and collaborated with the Mayor on workforce development initiatives. The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at LCC partnered with the **Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)** and hosted the Northern New Mexico Small Business Conference, which included 27 business partners.
 - **Health and Wellness:** The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) has been highly active in the community, providing presentations on topics like health careers, suicide prevention, and fentanyl awareness.
 - **Educational and Industry Partnerships:** The college collaborated with the **LANL**, the **Mora School District**, and the **New Mexico State Department of Transportation**. The CDL department is actively pursuing becoming a third-party testing facility with the NM MVD, a partnership that would be a significant opportunity for the college.
- **High-Impact Projects:**
 - **Adobe Model Home Construction:** This project was a successful collaboration with Cornerstones and the LCC Foundation and was recognized by the CCHP for its innovative approach to training.
 - **Wildland Firefighting:** The college is developing a new curriculum for its Wildland Firefighting courses and has initiated preliminary discussions with **NM Corrections** to provide workforce development training for minimum security inmates.
- **Broad Outreach and Communication:**
 - The college has maintained consistent public communication through regular updates to stakeholders and widespread media coverage, including press releases, newspaper articles, and social media.
 - Athletics has deepened its community involvement by hosting honorary days for local organizations and inviting local leaders, including the Mayor and Chief of Police, to throw out first pitches at games.



□ **Strengthening Community Ties:** The college is actively engaging with a wide range of community partners to support students and address community needs.

- **Local Government:** The college president attends City Council meetings on a monthly basis and in July met with the Mayor of Las Vegas and the City and County Managers to discuss collaborating on **workforce development for city and county employees**. The college is also working with the Mexican Consulate and the City of Las Vegas to support immigrant students and community members.
- **High School and Community Organizations:** The college's "Girls Can!" event, in partnership with the American Association of University Women (AAUW), successfully brought **130 fifth-grade girls** to campus to explore careers. This event was a major success and even led to a new partnership with **Springer High School**. The college also co-sponsored an event with middle school girls through the New Mexico Women in Science and NM MESA programs.

□ **Strategic Workforce Development Alliances:** The college is forging new partnerships to create career pathways for students.

- The WRTC is exploring a partnership with the **New Mexico Department of Corrections** to offer wildfire training and workforce development for minimum security women inmates in Springer NM.
- The college president attended a meeting with the **Mexican Consulate** to discuss educational initiatives and scholarship programs for students of Mexican origin, and the consulate plans to award scholarships in the future.
- The president participated in a **Vermejo Park Summit of Governments between Colorado and New Mexico** focusing on transportation and workforce development.

□ **Effective Public Communication:** The college is proactively communicating with the community through traditional and social media.

- Several staff members recorded radio ads for local stations (KFUN, KNMS, KRTN, and KSSR) to promote the college.
- A **press release on the college's student housing crisis** was published in the *Las Vegas Optic* and the *Guadalupe Communicator*, highlighting a key issue to the community. A follow-up story was requested by the Optic reporter, demonstrating the newsworthy impact of the communication.
- The college published a press release about the success of its Culinary Arts program in the **Santa Fe New Mexican**, a major regional newspaper.
- **Student athletes' success** and the **SMILES** program for free dental care were also featured in the local paper.



- Student services also initiated a **social media survey** to determine why people choose Luna, using student voices to inform future marketing and recruitment efforts

Conclusion

Luna Community College has made excellent progress in cultivating and strengthening public and private partnerships. The breadth of these collaborations, from local government and business to health organizations and law enforcement, demonstrates a strategic effort to integrate the college into the community's fabric. These partnerships not only support existing student programs but also create new opportunities, such as the potential third-party CDL testing facility, that will benefit both students and the regional workforce.

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- Luna Community College has shown **excellent and diverse progress** in cultivating and strengthening partnerships. The college engaged in numerous community outreach activities and collaborations:
 - **Adobe Model Home Construction** was a partnership with Cornerstones and the LCC Foundation, later recognized by CCHP. An RDC grant application for continued funding was submitted in June 2025.
 - The college maintained strong relationships with the **City of Las Vegas**, signing an MOU for use of Rodriguez Park for athletics, meeting with the Mayor on workforce development, and collaborating on registration banners and community events.
 - Partnerships with **Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)** were active, including site visits and discussions on grant fund utilization and workforce needs.
 - The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at LCC partnered with the **Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)**. The SBDC also hosted the **Northern New Mexico Small Business Conference** at LCC, involving FEMA and 27 business resource partners. The SBDC Director actively participated in **Community Wealth Building meetings** and the **School of Business Advisory Council**.
 - The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) actively engaged with various schools and organizations, delivering presentations on health careers, vaping dangers, suicide prevention (QPR), and fentanyl awareness. They also hosted and toured with the **University of New Mexico's School of Medicine Dean and team**.
 - Athletics showed high community involvement, setting up **honorary days for Las Vegas organizations** and collaborating with local government and law enforcement for first pitches at games.
 - The college responded to an **RFP from the New Mexico State Department of Transportation** for an Industry Credential Pipeline program in CDL, heavy equipment, and construction management. Discussions with **NM MVD about becoming a third-party CDL testing facility** highlight a significant potential partnership.



- Luna also met with **Mora School District personnel regarding Dual Credit opportunities** and explored collaborations with the **Department of Corrections**.
- The college participated in a **Vermejo Park Summit of Governments between Colorado and New Mexico** focusing on transportation and workforce development.
- Public communications were a constant priority, with regular communications to stakeholders, campus-wide meetings, and widespread media coverage through press releases, newspaper articles, and social media.

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- **August 7, 2024:**
 - Priorities: Communications with stakeholders.
 - Priorities: Adobe Model Home Construction (with Foundation).
 - Priorities: Wildfire Resiliency Training Center (advisory council and external evaluation).
 - The MdN AHEC Director presented on Obesity, Nutrition, and Diabetes to the University of New Mexico Ambassadors program.
 - The MdN AHEC Director presented on QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) for Suicide Prevention to University of New Mexico Clin Ed students.
 - The WRTC held its first successful Advisory Panel meeting, with positive input and a follow-up scheduled for October.
- **September 3, 2024:**
 - Priorities: Communications with stakeholders.
 - Adobe Model Home Construction (with Foundation); Funding and Logistics are priorities.
 - Wildfire Resiliency Training Center is a priority.
 - Luna Community College hosted the 2024 Northern New Mexico Small Business Conference.
 - A partnership between the Minority Business Development Agency and SBDC began on May 22, 2024.
- **October 8, 2024:**
 - Priorities: Communications with stakeholders.
 - Priorities: Adobe Model Home Construction (with Foundation); Funding and Logistics.
 - Priorities: Wildfire Resiliency Training Center, including filling key vacancies and grant responsibilities.
 - An MOU has been signed with the city for the use of Rodriguez Park.
 - Field improvements are underway at Rodriguez field for the Softball diamond to improve its look and attractiveness for recruiting and to ensure Luna has a top-ranked facility.
 - Softball is setting up honorary days to recognize organizations in the Las Vegas Community.



- Softball has reached out to the Las Vegas Roadrunners to help support the Special Olympians in the Las Vegas and surrounding areas.
- Athletics completed its RPSP (Regional Program Status Plan).
- The SBDC Center Director attended the 2024 America's Small Business Development Center Conference.
- The SBDC Center Director gained certification as the nation's first cohort to receive training and certification in AI, earning an AI Certificate of Completion as a Certified AI Business Advisor.
- **November 5, 2024:**
 - Priorities: Communications.
 - Priorities: Adobe Model Home Construction (with Foundation); Funding and Logistics.
 - Priorities: Wildfire Resiliency Training Center, including filling key vacancies and grant responsibilities.
 - A broadcasting team has completed work to stream all home baseball and softball games on ROKU and Amazon Fire Stick for the 2025 season.
 - The SBDC was present and presented at a FEMA Small Business Workshop, gaining 4 new clients.
 - The SBDC Center Director is serving on the School of Business Advisory Council and participated in a site visit with the accreditation team.
- **December 3, 2024:**
 - Priorities: Communications.
 - All home games will be live streamed on ROKU and Amazon Fire Stick by the new broadcasting partner TSN Sports, with no fee required for viewing.
 - Athletics is hosting an open house on December 3rd to invite anyone to tour the Athletics Center.
 - The SBDC at LCC applied and was approved as a Neighborhood Champion for Small Business Saturday on November 30, 2024.
- **January 7, 2025:**
 - Priorities: Communications.
 - An LCC webpage has been developed to handle Public Records Requests.
- **February 5, 2025:**
 - Priorities: Communications.
 - Priorities: Community Partnerships.
 - Luna was recognized by the CCHP for the Adobe Model Home project on Saturday, January 25, 2025.
 - Discussions began with Mayor David Romero on January 23, 2025, concerning collaboration and workforce development.
 - An Online Public Town Hall with Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Thom Mason was attended on January 21, discussing AI and the need for construction workers and welders.
 - The Las Vegas Business Community Service Foundation annual meeting was attended, connecting with businesses interested in CDL and other CTE training.



- Athletics confirmed that Mayor Romero and Chief of Police Claeb Marquez will be throwing out first pitches for home games.
- Briana Montano-Baca, SBDC Center Director, participated in two community meetings where Community Wealth Building was the main topic.
- **April 10, 2025:**
 - Priorities: Communications.
 - Priorities: Community Partnerships.
 - The fall season is active, with each team playing other colleges, universities, and club teams.
 - Field improvements are nearly completed at Rodriguez field for the Softball diamond to improve its look and attractiveness for recruiting and to ensure Luna has a top-ranked facility.
 - Community involvement with athletics is at an all-time high, engaging local organizations.
 - This season, a Luna instructor (Dr. Mathews), President Dr. Linder, Mayor Romero, Chief of Las Vegas Police Marquez, and State Police were honored by the softball team and threw out the first pitch.
 - The CDL department implemented new course scheduling requirements, making students sign up for training times each week instead of coming as they chose, which is speeding up progress.
 - A 16' mobile classroom/simulator equipment trailer has been approved and is on track for delivery by June 30, 2025.
 - CDL has contacted James Lopez, Bureau Chief, NM MVD, regarding setting Luna up as a third-party testing facility for CDL drivers.
 - The WRTC hired Wes Schuchman as the EDA Grant Program Manager.
 - The WRTC revised its spring course schedule of classes.
 - The WRTC activated its EDA grant.
 - The WRTC is developing relationships with entities capable of assisting with short and mid-range objectives.
 - The SBDC Center Director hosted a meeting with the Las Vegas/San Miguel Chamber of Commerce to explore opportunities to revive the Committee for Economic Development Meetings in Las Vegas.
- **May 7, 2025:**
 - Priorities: Communications.
 - Priorities: Community Partnerships.
 - The spring season for Athletics is now complete.
 - Field improvements were completed at Rodriguez field for the Softball diamond to improve its look and attractiveness for recruiting and to ensure Luna has a top-ranked facility.
 - Community involvement with athletics is at an all-time high, engaging local organizations.
 - This season, a Luna instructor (Dr. Mathews), President Dr. Linder, Mayor Romero, Chief of Las Vegas Police Marquez, State Police, and Trustee Mark Dominguez were honored by the softball team and threw out the first pitch.



- A Facebook post regarding CDL and Heavy Equipment training through Luna received many positive responses, leading to four new student registrations.
- The Santa Rosa Campus Heavy Equipment Simulator was delivered and set up for on-site training.
- The simulator trailer is anticipated to ship to Luna the second week of June 2025.
- At the main campus, the CDL department continues to enroll an average of 2-3 students per week into its course, and new training schedules seem to be working well for timely progression.
- The on-site meeting date to pursue CDL Third-Party Testing has not yet been received, but follow-up emails have been sent.
- The USDA/LIFTE Grant has been reactivated, and drawdowns initiated.
- Wes Schuchman, EDA Grant Program Manager, is working on budget/grant management and organization for the WRTC.
- The WRTC revised its spring course schedule of classes.
- The WRTC's EDA grant budget has been established.
- The WRTC initiated small grant overview, organization, and administration efforts.
- The WRTC is in the process of further developing relationships with entities that can assist with short and mid-range objectives.
- An interview and recommendation to offer employment for the WRTC Program Coordinator position have been made.
- The SBDC Center Director presented on Artificial Intelligence for the "Girls Can 2025" event.
- **June 4, 2025:**
 - Priorities: Communications.
 - Priorities: Community Partnerships.
 - Marketing, Communications and Celebrations are ongoing activities.
 - Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Outreach are ongoing activities.
 - Athletic Director Randy Krutsch was unanimously re-elected as Women's Softball Chair for Region IX.
 - The MVD representative reached out to CDL and is preparing a proposal for Luna to be set up for third-party testing, with a meeting expected within the month of June.
 - The USDA/LIFTE Grant has been reactivated, though drawdowns were held due to the end of the fiscal year closeout.
 - Wes Schuchman, EDA Grant Program Manager, is working on budget/grant management and organization for the WRTC.
 - The WRTC revised its spring course schedule of classes.
 - The WRTC's EDA grant budget has been established, and an email report was sent to the EDA Administrator.
 - The WRTC initiated small grant overview, organization, and administration, and closed out the NRCS grant on May 27, 2025.
 - The WRTC is in the process of further developing relationships with entities capable of assisting with short and mid-range objectives.



- An employment offer has been extended for the WRTC Program Coordinator position.
- The WRTC is developing onboarding/training and readiness procedures for the Program Coordinator.
- Preliminary discussions have begun with NM Corrections regarding wildfire training/workforce development for minimum security inmates.
- Two new professional services contracts were initiated for curricula and strategic planning development, and for videography services.
- The SBDC Center Director attended the NMSBDC Statewide Meeting in Albuquerque, NM.
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- • Spring season begins Jan 10th 2025. Student Athletes will check in and have annual athletics meetings prior to practice start. SG5, SG6 [i]
- • Athletics is hosting an open house on December 3rd to invite anyone who would like to come to tour the Athletics Center and see what we do and where Student Athletes spend time preparing and using the center as a classroom for mandatory study hall, area of community and a safe place to relax, get assistance as needed. SG2, SG6 [i]
- • CDL class had 39 students registered as of December, 2024. Students are in varying levels of training. Students proceed at their own pace and can work around their current employment. This set up takes a bit longer for completion but does allow more student participation with the open enrollment feature. (1,2,3,5,6) [i]
- • CDL has added a new instructor, Johnny Martinez, to our teaching/management staff. He has over 30 years of experience in the trucking industry. (1,2,3,4,5,6) [i]
- • Contract Ed / CDL / Heavy Equipment / CTE - further discussion is scheduled to process the RFP issued by the New Mexico State Department of Transportation for a Industry Credential Pipeline Certification. (1,2,3,5,6) [i]
- • Developed LCC webpage to handling Public Records Requests (SG#6) [i]
- • Communications (SG6) [i]
- • Community Partnerships (SG6) [i]
- • Spring season is now active and Athletics has confirmed that Mayor Romero, Chief of Police Claeb Marquez will be throwing out first pitches for home games and State Police have accepted to throw out one but have not confirmed a date. (SG 6) [i]
- • Briana Montano-Baca, Center Director has participated in two community meetings where Community Wealth Building has been the main topic of discussion and has assisted in bringing key local stakeholders into this discussion (SG#6) [i]
- • Communications (SG6) [i]
- • Community Partnerships (SG6) [i]
- • Fall season is active and each team is playing other colleges, universities and club teams SG5, SG6 [i]
- • Field improvements are nearly completed at Rodriguez field for the Softball diamond to improve the look and attractiveness of the park to help recruiting and ensure that Luna has a top ranked facility (SG 5, SG 6) [i]



- Community involvement is at an all-time high with athletics. Involving local organizations such as city government, city police, state police, LCC personnel, city little league programs. SG6 [i]
- This season alone, we have already had a Luna instructor, (Dr. Mathews), President Dr. Linder, Mayor Romero, Chief of Las Vegas Police Marquez, State Police were honored by the softball team and threw out the first pitch. SG6 [i]
- Our goal with the new training times is to average 1 to 2 weeks for class/theory/permit testing) 3 - 4 weeks for behind the wheel/pre-trip/backing time. Final drive tests are scheduled after the student demonstrates the proficiency to successfully pass the test. SG #1, 2, 5, 6 [i]
- A 16' mobile classroom/simulator equipment trailer has been approved and is on track to be delivered prior to 6/30/25. The trailer will enable our department to take the mobile heavy equipment simulator and the smaller CDL shifting simulator out into the field for training and recruiting purposes. SG #1, 2, 5, 6 [i]
- CDL has been in contact with James Lopez, Bureau Chief, NM MVD, regarding setting Luna up as a third-party testing facility for CDL drivers. He will be setting up a meeting with us sometime in April to go over the process and requirements. This will be a huge opportunity for Luna to support our students and community. SG#1,2,5,6 [i]
- Hired our EDA Grant Program Manager, Wes Schuchman. SG# 2,4,6 [i]
- Revised our spring course schedule of classes. SG # 1,3,5,6 [i]
- Activated our EDA grant. SG # 1,3,5,6 [i]
- In process of developing relationships with entities capable of assisting WRTC with short and mid-range objectives SG # 1,3,5,6 [i]
- Priorities: 3. Communications (SG6) [i]
- 4. Community Partnerships (SG6) [i]
- Marketing, Communications and Celebrations (SG6) [i]
- Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Outreach (SG6) [i]
- Athletic Director Randy Krutsch was elected unanimously by all region IX Athletic Directors to remain as Women's Softball Chair for Region IX SG1, SG2, SG6 [i]
- Third Party Testing - MVD rep reached out to CDL. He is getting a proposal together for Luna to set us up for testing. He works under James Lopez, whom I have been corresponding with. Should be meeting with us within the month of June. This will be a huge opportunity for Luna to support our students and community. SG#1,2,5,6 [i]
- USDA/LIFTE Grant reactivated; drawdowns held due to end of fiscal year closeout SG# 2,3,4,6 [i]
- EDA Grant Program Manager, Wes Schuchman. Working on budget/grant management & organization SG# 2,4,6 [i]
- Revised our spring course schedule of classes. SG # 1,3,5,6 [i]
- EDA grant. Budget established, email report sent to EDA Administrator SG # 1,3,5,6 [i]



- • Initiated small grant overview, organization, administration; closed out NRCS grant 5/27/25 SG# 1,3,5,6 [i]
- • In process of further developing relationships with entities capable of assisting WRTC with short and mid-range objectives SG # 1,3,5,6 [i]
- • Offer employment for WRTC Program Coordinator position SG# 1,2,3,4,5,6 [i]
- • Developing WRTC on-boarding/training and readiness procedures for Program Coordinator, SG# 2,3,4,5,6 [i]
- • Initiated two new professional Services contracts for curricula and strategic planning development and for videography services, SG# 1,2,3,4,5,6 [i]
- • Attended the NMSBDC Statewide Meeting in Albuquerque, NM SG #6 [i]
- • Priorities: o Communications with stakeholders (SG6) [i]
- • Adobe Model Home Construction (with Foundation) (SG1, SG6) [i]
- • Wildfire Resiliency Training Center (advisory council and external evaluation) (SG1, SG6) [i]
- • Set up and presented with Luna Interim President Dr. Carol Linder on KFUN and KNMX. In addition, set up interview for Ray Varela to promote upcoming Luna Open Houses (5B, 6A) [i]
- • Published a Luna Light (5B, 6A) [i]
- • Assisted administration in sending out letter from Luna President to be printed in Las Vegas Optic, Guadalupe Communicator and World Journal (5B, 6A) [i]
- • Worked with administration to order Welcome Back banners and sandwich boards (5B, 6A) [i]
- • MdN AHEC Director presented on Obesity, Nutrition, and Diabetes to the University of New Mexico Ambassadors program on 7/15. SG#6 [i]
- • MdN AHEC Director presented on QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) for Suicide Prevention to (10) University of New Mexico Clin Ed students 7/18. SG#6 [i]
- • Continued to update Luna social media pages (5B, 6A) [i]
- • Set up and participated in interview with Luna Interim President Dr. Carol Linder on KFUN and KNMX. In addition, set up interview for Ray Varela to promote upcoming Luna Open Houses (5B, 6A) [i]
- • Published a Luna Light (5B, 6A) [i]
- • Assisted administration in sending out letter from Luna President to be printed in Las Vegas Optic, Guadalupe Communicator and World Journal (5B, 6A) [i]
- • Worked with administration to order Welcome Back banners and sandwich boards (5B, 6A) [i]
- • WRTC had its first (and very successful) Advisory Panel meeting. Positive input from all and follow-up is scheduled for October, with helpful input coming in from all members. (SG 3, 4 & 6) [i]