

The latest news from Luna Community College

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Sept. 24, 2021



Luna Community College students fill out paper ballots during the student government election on Monday, Sept. 20, at the Humanities atrium.

Students elect representatives

Luna Community College students have chosen their representatives for student government in the 2021-22 school year.

An election that used paper balloting was held Monday, Sept. 20, at the Humanities atrium. Luna student government advisor Kimberly Baca oversaw the proceedings and confirmed the election results this week.

Angelica Montanez was elected president, succeeding Mario Romero. Emma George was voted in as vice

president, and Richard Baca as secretary-treasurer. Executive officer candidates were required to be enrolled in at least six credit hours and maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.5.

Karizzma Medina, Jessica Montoya, Angelica Ortizow and Samantha Vigil were all elected to senate positions. In order to qualify for senate candidacy, they had to be enrolled in at least six credit hours with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

Advisor Baca said Luna student government will have up to seven

additional seats open for senators. Those interested in joining senate would need to be voted in by the seated members of the governing body.

Student senate is one of several formally recognized entities that participate in shared governance at Luna Community College.

Regular meetings of the new student government body will be announced. For more information, you may contact Kimberly Baca at kbaca@luna.edu.

Dr. Dani Day new Luna VP

Educator brings ample experience in community college academics, CTE and student services

Dr. Dani Day is Luna Community College's new interim vice president of instruction and student services. She began her new duties on Tuesday, Sept. 21.

"We are pleased to welcome Dr. Day to Luna," said Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez. "Dr. Day has a lot of knowledge and community college experience in both instruction and student services. We are confident Dr. Day will do an outstanding job for Luna."

From 2014 to 2019, Day served as vice president of academic services at Collin College in Texas. From 2012 to 2014, she served as associate vice president of teaching and learning at Collin College. Among her duties at Collin College were overseeing career technical education programs; developing and implementing the grants office; providing leadership for the learning assessment and the curriculum development office; serving as a resource for curriculum design and compliance; guiding the development of assessment planning and serving as the



Luna Community College welcomes Dr. Dani Day, newly appointed interim vice president of instruction and student services. She began work Sept. 21.

accreditation liaison.

Among Day's major accomplishments: increasing grant revenue over \$7 million in the first two years; designing and implementing multiple college-wide systems, including program review and innovation grants; providing leadership for development of an industry-college partnership and completing the reaffirmation of accreditation in 2015.

From 2006 to 2012, Day was vice president for learning services at Cisco College in Texas where she provided leadership for instruction

programs, career and technical education, distance learning, information technology, learning resources and student success programs. While at Cisco College, Day developed systems for dual credit program and distance learning instruction and completed successful reaffirmation of accreditation. Under Day, Cisco College increased dual credit enrollment by more than 400 percent. Day was also chairwoman of the language and

communication department at Cisco College and taught for many years at the post-secondary, secondary and elementary levels.

Day earned her doctorate in education from Northeastern University in Boston in 2015 and a master's degree in English from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1997.

In 2015, Day received the Ray Williams Outstanding Leadership Award for Texas Community College Instructional Administrators. Day has presented and published several

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“I have been really excited about the incredible potential here at Luna. Luna is perfectly poised to have a positive impact on the community.”

Dr. Dani Day
Interim Vice President of Instruction and Student Services
Luna Community College

Dr. Dani Day...

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dozen research papers. For the last three years, Day has served as a consultant at the post-secondary level.

“I have been really excited about the incredible potential here at Luna,” said Day. “Luna is perfectly poised to have a positive impact on the community. My favorite place to work is in a small community college. I’m delighted to be here.”

Join our team and help us serve our communities!

Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

FULL-TIME

- Humanities and School of Business director ... opened Sept. 3, 2021
- Office manager, Athletics ... opened Sept. 3, 2021
- Financial aid director ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- Technical electrician ... opened July 14, 2021

TEMPORARY PART-TIME

- College & Career Readiness Institute math and language arts instructors (2) ... opened Aug. 19, 2021
- ACE tutor (6) ... opened Aug. 16, 2021
- Wellness Center technician ... opened July 2, 2021
- Preschool substitute teacher/ caretaker ... opened June 29, 2021

ADJUNCT (per course)

- CTE furniture and cabinet making instructor, Santa Rosa ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE furniture and cabinet making instructor, Springer ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE furniture and cabinet making instructor, main campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE commercial drivers license theory instructor, main campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE commercial drivers license driving instructor, main campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE welding instructor, main campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE department welding instructor, Springer ... opened Aug. 26, 2021

- CTE auto technology instructor, Springer ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE auto technology instructor, main campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE department collision repair instructor, main campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021

Most recent postings listed first. All positions open until filled unless otherwise noted. For more information on each position, please log on to www.luna.edu/jobs



Walk for Hope

Mental health support and resources showcased as walkers honor memory of loved ones lost to suicide

The devastation of COVID-19 hasn't been limited to those who've contracted the coronavirus.

The global pandemic has also wrought havoc in terms of our mental health – making us collectively more stressed, anxious, depressed and traumatized, according to studies.

“(It) has likely brought many changes to how you live your life, and with it uncertainty, altered daily routines, financial pressures and social isolation,” according to a Mayo Clinic staff report. “You may worry about getting sick, how long the pandemic will last, whether you’ll lose your job, and what the future will bring. Information overload, rumors and misinformation can make your

life feel out of control and make it unclear what to do ... You may experience stress, anxiety, fear, sadness and loneliness. And mental health disorders, including anxiety and depression, can worsen.”

Substance abuse and domestic violence have also been increasing in the COVID era, and the tie to mental health challenges is there.

With this as a backdrop, in comes Walk for Hope, a collaborative effort introduced by the Northeastern New Mexico Suicide Awareness Project and Recovery Communities of New Mexico. The inaugural Walk for Hope took place on Saturday, Sept. 18, on the Luna Community College campus. The walk itself, which

encouraged fundraising but was free to all, honored the memory of loved ones lost to suicide. The event also included a lineup of guest speakers who shared their own insights and experiences with suicide and mental health issues. Various exhibitors provided information on community resources, some to assist with support for mental health.

Hundreds took part in Walk for Hope, which organizer Cynthia Branch – a counselor for Luna’s Student Success Center – said will be just the first of a series of walks to take place across northeastern New Mexico.

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“We’re going to spread the word that there’s hope,” said Branch, whose own loss of a loved one to suicide caused anguish but led to a greater resolve to help others. “Their lives are not in vain,” she told the gathering. “Share their stories.”

Tommy Tapia was among the speakers to share his own story – one of difficult times, a low point, recovery and eventually redemption. “I was using substances to cope (with problems),” he said. “I didn’t know there was help available.”

Tapia said he attempted suicide but then found that people who cared about him were indeed there. “I got introduced to people who made the path of helping others. It changed my life.”



The Walk for Hope has been a collaborative effort of multiple community agencies, businesses and individuals.

“I encourage people to ask for help – and know that help is available.”

Today Tapia is one of those who pays it forward by reaching out to

help others.

“It’s a great day to be alive, clean and sober,” said Frances Lucero, another guest speaker who said she also dealt with addiction before getting help. “I found a passion (for) recovery, a passion of giving back ... I want to say don’t give up.”

“There is hope, and there is help,” agreed speaker Victoria Baca. “You have to want it ... I thank God for the help.”

Baca described some of her story and noted “13 years in recovery – and it’s awesome. I have to move forward for myself, because nobody’s going to do it for me.”

Sophie LaBorwit addressed the crowd and encouraged each of them to be a source of encouragement and positivity for others, even with simple, small actions and words.



Exhibitors provide information on mental health resources and other helpful entities in the community.

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Approximately 150 walkers took part in the culminating activity of Walk for Hope — the actual walk itself.

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“It’s the smallest connections that give us meaning,” she said. “There is hope ... it can make all the difference in the world.”

“It’s extremely important (to know about mental health resources),” said Branch. “People who lose somebody go into a dark place. To know you’re not alone is really important. (Going forward), they see that a person’s life counts.”

Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez, who welcomed the Walk for Life participants to campus, said the college is glad to be part of the effort. “I believe understanding the

issues of suicide and mental health is a way to deal with them ... We appreciate you being here ... I want to thank Cindy Branch for making Luna Community College a part of this.”

Branch said fundraising efforts generated close to \$12,000, which will help pay for future endeavors like Saturday’s event. She said more than 150 community members took part in the actual walk, and many others were there to support the cause.

“It’s great to see all the support here,” said Chelsea Lucero from El Centro Family Health.



“We’re going to spread the word that there’s hope.”

Cynthia Branch
Walk for Hope organizer,
Luna Community College

Luna's homecoming tour: West Las Vegas

West Las Vegas turned its homecoming parade into a drive-through affair on Sept. 10. Past homecoming queens gathered on campus.





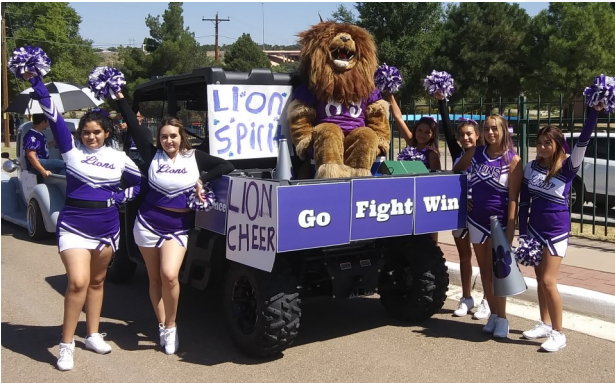
Luna's homecoming tour: Robertson

Robertson's homecoming, held Sept. 17, invited participants to salute their favorite decades, with a trek from Fifth & Friedman to 12th & Bridge.



Luna's homecoming tour: Santa Rosa

Lion pride, including a reunion of the 2011 SRHS state champion football team, was in full force for the Sept. 17 homecoming parade.



LANL scholarship available

Luna Community College students are encouraged to apply for a Career Pathways Scholarship, sponsored by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The scholarship award of up to \$3,000 is for students earning an associate degree or certificate or pursuing a trade.

According to LANL, many scholarship recipients are non-traditional students returning to or entering higher education for the first time. Some are adults returning to school to make a career change, and others needing financial support to complete a semester or two before earning their associate degree.

There is no minimum grade point average requirement, and full-time enrollment is not required. Since 2011, this scholarship has been offered twice per year (fall and spring). Beginning this year, the Career Pathways Scholarship will only be open in the spring, with funding available for the following fall. The scholarship will open Jan. 3 and close April 18.

For more information about our scholarship program, please visit www.lanlfoundation.org/scholarships. You may also contact scholarship program manager Mike Ammerman at 505-795-3778.

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

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.

STEM Showdown at the lake



Jonathan Lujan and Raymond Varela share information about the college and its offerings with area high school students during STEM Showdown at Storrie Lake State Park. New Mexico Highlands University, in partnership with New Mexico MESA, hosted STEM Showdown, a weeklong event at the park to showcase opportunities in STEM. Representing Luna in the event: Lujan (Career Services and Admissions & Recruitment), Varela (Academic Center for Excellence) and Francisco Apodaca (STEM).

Spotlight: Barbering & Cosmetology

At Luna, students in the barbering & cosmetology program learn via hands-on training the various aspects of their trade. **Left:** Barbering student Christian Padilla performs a haircut on client Geno Castillo. To set up an appointment with a Luna barbering or cosmetology student, please call 505-454-5344. If you are calling from a campus phone, please dial ext. 1045. Students answer the phone and set up the appointment as part of their training. All work is performed by students and supervised by licensed instructors.



Left: Cosmetology student Victoria Silva works on a set of nails for Alicia Chacon. **Right:** Isaiah Martinez sharpens his shaving skills as instructor Germaine Sandoval observes.



Left: Leslie Marquez and Tasneem Shabaneh work in tandem on Ida Valdez's nails. **Right:** Andrea Chavez and Brandyn Atencio set up for a practice facial shave.



Covid-19 Guidelines Phase 4

In accordance with guidelines issued by the New Mexico Governor's Office, the NM Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), compliance with the following guidelines are required of all individuals on the Luna Community College (LCC) campus. This protocol is implemented to ensure the safety of the LCC campus community. If you do not comply with this safety protocol, entry into offices and classrooms may be refused.

Guidelines for Luna Community College

- Masks are required indoors for all persons on campus.
- Employees may remove masks while alone in a closed office.
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly.
- Practice Respiratory Etiquette.
- Utilize sanitizing stations.
- Socially distance a minimum of six (6) feet in indoor setting and three (3) feet in classrooms
- Masks are not required outdoors.



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Instructor Guidelines for Classroom Activity

- All students are required to sign in before each class and must include their current phone number.
- Individuals shall sanitize their hands upon entering the classroom (supplies are provided).
- Students shall wear masks while in the classroom.
- Should a student refuse to wear a mask while in the classroom, the student will be asked to leave.
- The instructor shall wear a mask at all times.
- All individuals in the classroom shall socially distance a minimum of 3 feet in all directions.
- Instructors will ensure all high touch surfaces shall be sanitized after use (such as desktops, chairs, doorknobs, door facings, handrails, etc., supplies are provided).

Rough Rider athletics



Esperanza Tafoya, a senior at Clovis High School, has committed to play for the Rough Rider softball team next season. Tafoya, who plays second base, will be majoring in nursing at Luna. Pictured from left are Tafoya, Luna head coach Steve Wallace, Paul Ortiz, Norma Ortiz and Dorianna Nicolas.



Luna softball plays an area travel squad in a recent exhibition scrimmage at Cowgirl Field on the New Mexico Highlands campus.



Rough Rider baseball recently held preseason orientation with assistant coach Harry Estep and head coach T.C. Nusser (left), who provided an overview of team rules and expectations Luna softball coach Steve Wallace (right, file photo) and his team will be leading a CROP Hunger Walk at noon, on Wednesday, Oct. 20. The walk will begin at the Maria H. Paiz Administration Building.



Luna Community College

College and Career Readiness Institute

Adult Education Program

We offer ...

- Adult education for learners 16 years and older
- Preparation for High School Equivalency, better known as the GED or HiSET exam
- Exploration of college and career pathways
- A pipeline to Luna Community College certificate and degree programs
- Classes to improve reading, writing and math skills for high school graduates
- Classes in foundational computer skills as well as English language reading, writing and speaking skills
- Proven methods to improve life and employment

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much does it cost?

A: Nothing!

Q: How do I register for classes?

A: Registration is ongoing and completed at <https://forms.gle/WiNER9hS7inzgT9h6> or you can come in to one of our sites and complete the registration in person.

Q: Where are you located?

A: We have sites in Las Vegas, Mora, Raton and Santa Rosa.

Q: What type of classes are being offered?

A: Reading, writing and math, digital literacy and job skills classes. We offer face-to-face, online and distance learning.

Q: When do classes start?

A: We follow the LCC academic calendar with both eight-week face-to-face and online classes starting Aug. 23, Oct. 18, 2021, and Jan. 17 and March 21, 2022.

For more information:

505-454-2564

lbentson@luna.edu

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9AM - 4PM

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FOR MORE INFO CALL 505-425-6451

Focusing on Dislocated Worker and
Youth Employment (16-24 Years Old)

This event will follow Covid safe practices.
Masks and social distancing are required.

