

# Poised to thrive

## Luna dual credit student Jaydan Herrera accepted to MIT program

Luna Community College dual credit student Jaydan Herrera was recently selected to participate in the prestigious 2021 MIT Online Science, Technology, and Engineering Community (MOSTEC) Program.

The six-month program is designed for high school seniors-to-be.

As part of the virtual program, Herrera will be required to take two classes and be committed to up to 30 hours per week. The program begins on June 23 and ends on Dec. 12.

Herrera, a junior at West Las Vegas High School, was selected from a competitive pool of more than 1,700 applicants.

The selection committee was inspired by Herrera's passion for STEM, his accomplishments and determination. A letter sent to Herrera stated that he is someone who stands out and will thrive in their rigorous academic environment



and contribute to their diverse community.

One of the goals of the 2021 Class of MOSTEC is to bring together individuals who represent a diversity of cultures, interests, identities, strengths, experiences, geographic areas and time zones.

At Luna, Herrera is taking introduction to engineering with Betsy Sanchez and introduction to computer science with Nichole Collins. Herrera is on track to graduate with an associate degree in pre-engineering at Luna and a diploma at West Las Vegas High.

"My first class at Luna was trigonometry with Dan Gonzales, and I finished all my math classes with Dr. Rita Surdi," said Herrera. "Now, I am finishing up all my

"I have found every instructor (at Luna) to be amazing. I've learned so much from them. I would definitely recommend students to take STEM classes at Luna."

**Jaydan Herrera**  
WLV junior, Luna dual credit student

program requirements for my degree. Luna has been great to me. I have found every instructor to be amazing. I've learned so much from them. I would definitely recommend students to take STEM classes at Luna."

Herrera says that after high school, he plans to go to a four-year university, hopefully New Mexico Tech in Socorro, and major in either mechanical or electrical engineering.

"I've always loved the sciences," said Herrera. "Math and science has always been my favorite subject in school and I want to go into engineering because I want to apply all the science and math I have learned into the real world."

**MORE: See Page 2**

# CTE Department to launch CDL First Monday program

Luna Community College's Career & Technical Education Department is getting ready to launch its CDL First Monday Program that will offer CDL courses beginning on the first Monday of every month beginning in June.

"We will have 'rolling enrollment' so we can enroll students whenever there is a vacant seat in the truck, especially for upgrade from Class B to Class A, automatic to standard shift upgrades, and retests, or if a student fails and needs to retest," said Luna CTE Director Dr. John Thompson. "Our rates will go up beginning in July, but we will still be the lowest price CDL training program in New Mexico."

In addition, Thompson said that CTE hopes to have its "rolling billboard" by the end of May. The "rolling billboard" is designed to



**Luna Community College CDL Instructor Florencio Garcia speaks with students from Springer High School recently.**

assist in publicity for Luna CTE programs.

For more information on Luna's CTE programs, call 505-454-2522.

**Note: Since there are**

**holidays on the First Monday of some months, some CDL launches will begin the first week of each month.**

## Herrera

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Herrera says one day he would like to also pursue a master's degree in engineering, get a job as an engineer, have a good career, support his family and give back to his community.

"I was super surprised when I

was chosen for this program," said Herrera. "This program will show me what engineering is about and introduce me to many of the professionals in the field. I look forward to the experience of working in the engineering field."

At West Las Vegas, Herrera is a member of MESA and Dream Makers. MESA is a STEM organization; Dream Makers is a health organization.

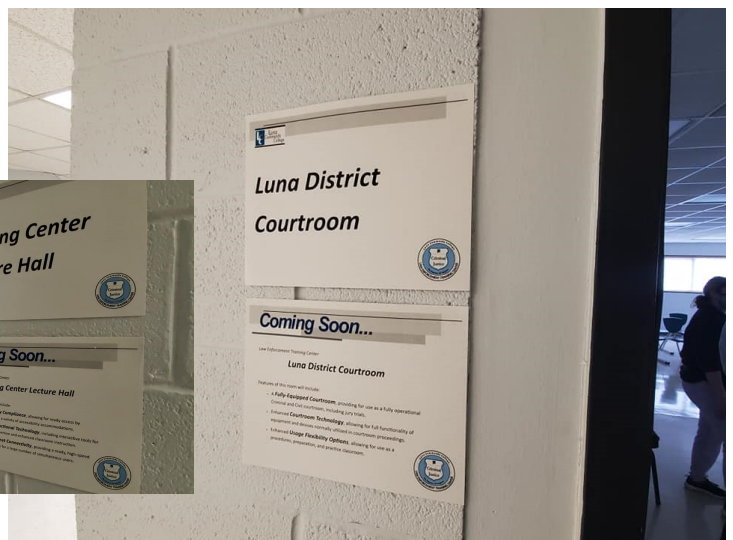
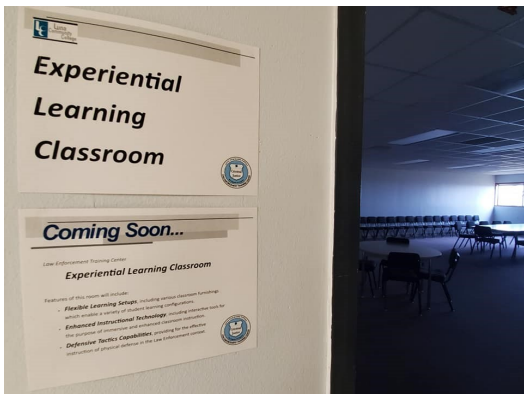
"I would like to thank God; my parents; all my instructors at West and at Luna, especially Dr. Surdi, Dan Gonzales, Betsy Sanchez, Erica Guava, Valerie Villa-Lopez and Nichole Collins; my mentor Saige Martinez; my high school counselors Rhea Martinez and Kristen Encinias, who helped me get started at Luna and helped me get into the MIT program."



# Law Enforcement Training Center hosts open house for campus community



Luna Community College Law Enforcement Training Center hosted area law enforcement personnel and Luna students and employees for an open house on Tuesday, April 20. The facility recently installed state-of-the-art simulators designed to train officers and others in tactical response scenarios, firearms and driving situations.



# Luna team visits Springer

Students, teachers and other employees of the Springer Municipal Schools district were the honored guests as the Luna Community College Springer satellite hosted a special preview day April 19.

The Luna team included student senators who joined interim President Dr. Kenneth Patterson and a contingent of department directors, instructors and staff members. Tina Gallegos of the Springer satellite and newly hired satellite coordinator Karen Wezwick welcomed students to the campus and provided an overview of the event. Students were then able to interact with representatives of various academic and vocational departments who brought informational materials as well as sensory demonstrations of their programs.

The Career & Technical Education Department featured a customized classic car to represent auto body work and collision repair, a working engine to showcase automotive technology, and a semi truck used in the commercial driver's license program.



**Automotive technology instructor Gene Sandoval demonstrates a working engine for students. In the backdrop are a semi-truck used in the CDL program and a custom car, showcasing multiple CTE programs available at Luna.**

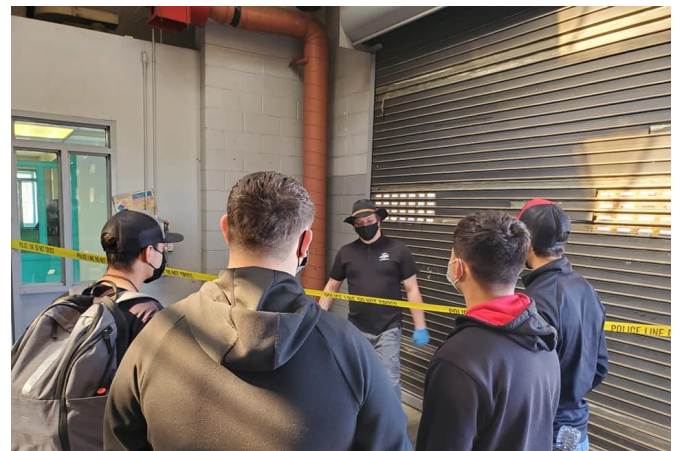
**Tina Gallegos of the Luna Springer satellite provides students an overview of the Luna Preview Day's featured exhibits.**



**MORE: See Page 5**



**As English instructor Sherry Goodyear looks on, Jim Hunyadi discusses plans to revamp the Luna media arts & film technology program.**



**Students listen to criminal justice instructor Jason Killian as he shows them elements of a mock crime scene.**



# Springer

Continued from Page 4

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Department presentation included a working programmable robot. The dental assistant program brought educational materials used to teach elementary children. The criminal justice program set up a simulated crime scene. Other departments and programs including the Education Department, Montanas del Norte Area Health Education Center, and the media arts & film technology program (now in development) provided information and other giveaways, as did the Admissions & Recruitment office. Faculty and staff from Humanities, CTE, Allied Health Sciences and other staff also spoke with students.

Several Luna student senators made the trip, continuing an active spring for the senate.

Springer's Luna Preview Day is part of the college's outreach efforts within the Luna district.



**Above, students learn about opportunities available in the Luna STEM Department as presented by Francisco Apodaca, director. Admissions & Recruitment Manager Moses Marquez and Area Health Education Center Director Ray Sanchez also visit with students.**



**Above, Brenda Ortega and Tycie Jackson tell students about the early childhood education and teacher ed programs at the college.**





# Luna to host LCC College Day on Wednesday, May 5



Luna Community College will be hosting LCC College Day for high school students from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, May 5 at the Media Arts Auditorium. COVID-19 protocols will be followed.

During the event, individuals can learn a broad spectrum of information about Luna, including academic opportunities, financing your college education, New Mexico Lottery and other scholarship opportunities, career decision making, dual credit and the admissions process.

Luna faculty and staff will be available to speak with individuals on a one-to-one basis. Campus tours will also be available.

“This is a great opportunity for potential

students to find out more about what we have to offer here at Luna Community College,” says Luna Admissions and Recruiting Manager Moses Marquez. “Luna remains one of the best values in higher education.”

Luna stands proud to continue to deliver quality education at one of the greatest values in the nation. A full time in-district student at Luna pays only \$516 a semester, while a New Mexico out of district resident pays only \$696 per semester. Out of state students pay only \$1,332 per semester. Senior citizens pay only \$5 per credit hour up to 10 hours.

Individuals are encouraged to RSVP for the event by calling 505-454-2550 or 1-800-588-7232.

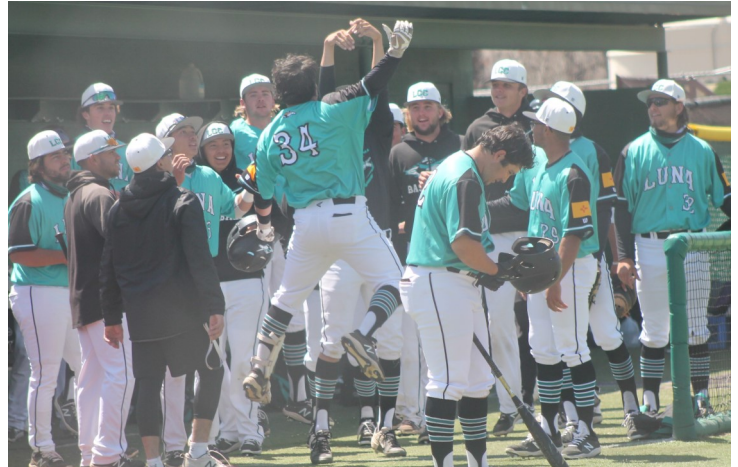
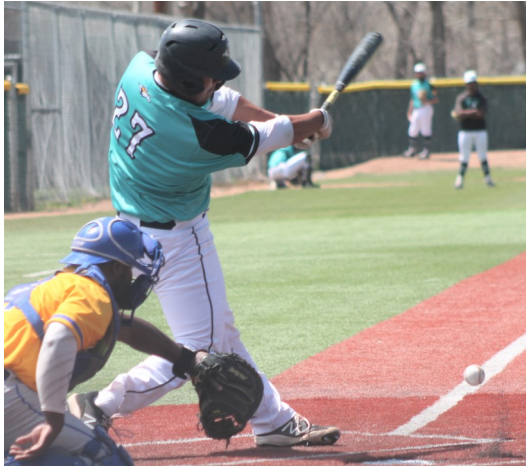
## Photo of the edition



**This photo of the edition captures an acequia running through El Valle. The acequia is an important aspect of life for many people in northern New Mexico.**



**Near right: Isaac Toledo puts a ball in play against Trinidad State. Far right: The Rough Rider dugout celebrates a solo home run by Francisco Ochoa.**



## Luna, Trinidad State split series

Luna baseball moved its win total into the double digits over the April 16-19 stretch, splitting a four-game road series at Trinidad State Junior College in Trinidad, Colo.

Sunday's game one was knotted up at 5-5 before a solo shot in the top of the fifth shifted control to the Rough Riders. Luna built its lead to 9-6 and held off a Trojan rally to score a 9-8 victory.

Trinidad State pulled away a bit for a 6-1 advantage in game two and allowed just one more run in prevailing 6-2.

Monday's game three saw the host Trojans jump out to a 4-3 lead. But a two-out rally for the Riders produced the tying and go-ahead runs in the top of the seventh, giving Luna a 6-4 edge. The Riders went on to a 9-4 win.

TSJC raced to a 3-0 head start in the finale. Luna tied it and threatened to take the lead but stranded some base runners in the middle innings. The Trojans went on to win 11-3, improving their record to 21-20 overall, 12-14 in conference.

Luna's softball team got the weekend going with an improved effort Saturday against a Trinidad State program that has emerged as one of the best in the region.

The Rough Riders tied game one 2-2 and used effective defense to keep most of the game close. TSJC scored the go-ahead run in the bottom of the fourth, but it stayed tight until the next frame, when the Trojans used a big inning to put it away, 10-2.

Trinidad State clamped down with its own pitching and defense to take the next two games 12-0, 11-1.

In Saturday's finale, Luna put up a battle in a 14-5 defeat. The Riders led 2-0 through one inning and it was tied 5-5 midway through the fifth.

Trinidad State is a robust 25-9 overall and 18-4 in conference – with a 17-1 home record.

Luna baseball (10-14, 7-9), coached by T.C. Nusser and assistant Harry Estep, will close the regular season with an eight-game homestand at Brandt Park over the next two weekends. Lamar Community College is scheduled to



**Mora alumnus Shanay Casados applies a tag to a baserunner in a recent home softball game. Luna has several area natives on its roster this spring.**

visit Saturday and Sunday, April 24-25, and Otero Junior College follows on Saturday and Sunday, May 1-2. First pitch each day is set for noon.

Luna softball (1-5, 1-11), coached by Steve Wallace and assistant Thomas Royder, is scheduled to wrap its regular season vs. Otero on April 30 and May 1.



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TO IMPORT YOUR 2019 TAXES**

**LCC FINANCIAL AID OFFICE  
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PHONE: 505-454-2560  
EMAIL: FINAID@LUNA.EDU**

**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](http://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](mailto:jgallegos@luna.edu), and Dave Kavanaugh, [dkavanaugh@luna.edu](mailto:dkavanaugh@luna.edu).*



# Interested in nursing school?

## TEAS

Nursing Entrance Exam

May 2021

Test dates



Scheduling for the following dates is taking place now.

Tuesday, May 4	1:30 p.m.
Friday, May 7	10 a.m.
Monday, May 17	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, May 18	1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 19	10 a.m.
Thursday, May 20	8:30 a.m.
Friday, May 21	1:30 p.m.
Monday, May 24	10 a.m.
Tuesday, May 25	8:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 26	1:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 27	10 a.m.
Friday, May 28	8:30 a.m.

*To reserve a test date,  
contact:*

**Yvonne Pina**

**505-454-2525**

**ypina@luna.edu**

*Please provide your phone  
number and preferred exam  
date in your e-mail.*

Please create an account with ATI prior to the exam date. To create an account, go to [atitesting.com](http://atitesting.com), click on Create Account. On the day of your exam, please arrive 10 minutes early to log in and register for the exam. You will need to bring a debit/credit card to purchase the exam (\$70 per attempt) and a photo ID for identification verification. A calculator is available in ATI, and the proctor will provide paper and pencils for use during the exam. All materials will be collected by the proctor before you leave the exam site. No late admission to testing area.





The Luna Community College Student Senate received a Buen Vecino Award from Las Vegas Mayor Louie A. Trujillo Wednesday, April 14, for efforts in organizing a Samaritan House Holiday Drive in December. The Buen Vecino Award certificate states: "In Recognition of your important contributions and for your extraordinary service and dedication to the Las Vegas Community." The award is part of the volunteer cooperative Vecinos Juntos. Pictured from left are Alisson Hill, R.J. Baca, Stephanie Carrillo, Mario Romero, Angelica Montanez and Mayor Trujillo. The presentation was part of the mayor's April 21 state-of-the-city address.



## Student Senate serves community

Luna Student Senate President Mario Romero (right) participated with Las Vegas Mayor Louie A. Trujillo in a citywide cleanup in commemoration of Earth Day on the morning of April 22. Student senate has been one of several Luna student contingents to assist in community service projects this school year.



# Got feedback on presidential forums?

Share your thoughts anonymously in online form



**Ayala**



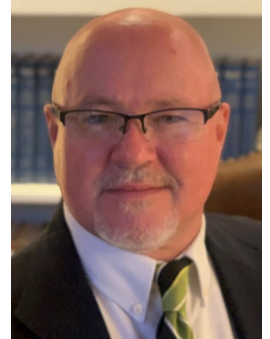
**Moritz**



**Villa**



**Martinez**



**Patterson**

Luna Community College hosted presidential finalists forums live on its YouTube page this week.

The finalists (in order of their forums) are Dr. Javier Ayala, Dr. Benjamin Moritz, Dr. Christopher Villa, Dr. Edward Martinez and Dr. Kenneth Patterson.

The forums were recorded and can be viewed on Luna's YouTube page by logging into [luna.edu](https://luna.edu) and clicking on the YouTube link at the bottom right corner of the main page. To provide feedback on any of the forums, please log into <https://forms.gle/DutnXw7pTAFxfiXn9>. If

the feedback is candidate-specific, be sure and state which candidate you are providing feedback on at the beginning of your feedback entry. All submissions remain confidential.

Deadline to submit feedback is May 1.



**Luna welding student Juan Montoya works on a weld flush for a project, recently. For more information on Luna's CTE programs, call 505-454-2522.**

## Attention Luna students

**Who:** Luna students who graduated in fall 2019, spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020 or students who will graduate this spring or summer 2021

**What:** Luna is planning face-to-face commencement ceremonies this May. The college will follow state of New Mexico pandemic protocol requirements. The plan is to have two graduation ceremonies, the first on the evening of May 14 and the second on the morning of May 15.

**Note:** Please call Luna's Registrar's office at 454-5313 for more information

# Get STRONGER this summer.

We are excited to help you pursue and achieve your dreams in 2021 and beyond.

Whether you're seeking training to get into the workforce, working toward a higher academic degree, or simply wanting to broaden your horizons and learn something new, Luna is here to help you build a stronger future.

## **SUMMER 2021 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

Classes start June 7. Register now through June 11.

Tuition rates start at just \$40 a credit hour.

Visit [LUNA.edu](http://LUNA.edu) for details, or call 505-454-2500 or 1-800-588-7232.

