

The latest news from Luna Community College

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Luna's Gonzales headed to law school

Gonzales accepted at Pepperdine; Luna's criminal justice program credited for opening doors

If there was not a pipeline before from Luna Community College in Las Vegas, N.M., to Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., there is one now.

Amber Gonzales, a 2019 Luna criminal justice graduate, was recently accepted to Pepperdine University School of Law.

"Luna opened many doors for me," says Gonzales. "I was able to do internships with the City and State Police Department as well as the district attorney's office. All three places intertwined and I was able to learn a lot on report writing and investigations. I have to give major props to Luna's criminal justice instructor Jason Killian, who encouraged me along the way."

Killian uses real-life criminal justice scenarios in his teaching methods and courses.

"After I graduated from Robertson High School in 2016, I went to school at Highlands on a Dean's Scholarship, but I had this drive to go into criminal justice, and my mom advised me to attend Luna," says Gonzales.

That advice may have been a game-changer.

"I've never been more confident on what I have wanted to do," says Gonzales.



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“Not only is the criminal justice program great, the college’s (Academic Center for Excellence) lab helped me out a lot as well, especially when it came to writing papers. In retrospect, I should have utilized the ACE lab a little more.”

After graduating from Luna, Gonzales went on to earn her political science degree in pre-law this year at Highlands. Gonzales is currently a tutor with Luna’s ACE lab as she prepares to start her law studies at Pepperdine in January of 2022.

While at the district attorney’s office, Gonzales says, Dr. Twila Quintana and the late District Judge Matt Sandoval also led her in the right direction.

“They took time to talk and

guide me,” says Gonzales. “They gave me a road map on what I needed to do to get into law school.”

She says that California is like a second home for her as she has a sister and other relatives who currently live there.

“I hope to become a defense lawyer; eventually I want to help people that are on death row,” says Gonzales. “A lot of lawyers are in it for the money; for me it is a passion. I want to help people. One day I plan on coming back home.”

Gonzales wants to mentor others.

“I’ve had some trials and tribulations in my life,” says Gonzales. “School is difficult, but there is help out there. In the end, if you have ambition, you will make it.”

Gonzales says you never know

**“School is difficult,
but there is help
out there.
In the end, if you
have ambition,
you will make it.”**

Amber Gonzales
Luna Community College
Class of '19

what surprises you can find in your own backyard.

“Don’t be embarrassed of your hometown,” says Gonzales. “Look at the help Luna has given to me; professors care about you.”

Build a
STRONGER
future.



**Join us this fall at
Luna Community College!**

Fall '21 classes begin Aug. 23.
Last day to register is Aug. 30.
Visit LUNA.edu for list of classes
and registration information.

- Allied Health Sciences
- Business
- Career & Technical Education
- Education
- Humanities
- Nursing
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math



LUNA.edu
505-454-2500
1-800-588-7232



Need help creating a Fall 2021 class schedule?

Let's start with a placement exam.

Do you have Accuplacer or ACT/SAT scores?



Let us help you get your ducks in a row!

Student Success Center

Make an appointment today!

Accuplacer Exam

Monday through Friday

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

call or e-mail

505-454-2549

studentsuccess@luna.edu

Study guides available:

accuplacer.org

under "Information for Students"

President Martinez tours Luna campuses

Community members express thoughts on higher education needs



Community members share their thoughts with Luna Community College President Dr. Edward Martinez at the Springer and Santa Rosa satellites on July 6 and 7.

Continuing a busy first month, Luna Community College President Dr. Edward Martinez toured each of the college's campus locations July 6-9.

In visits to Springer (July 6), Santa Rosa (July 7) and Mora (July 9), Martinez introduced himself and welcomed community members to share their perspectives on higher education in their respective areas. Specifically, he sought input about the challenges and opportunities for Luna in each community.

A common thread raised at each forum was the desire to have better communications and more site-based services and functionality for each campus location.

SPRINGER

Springer residents listed technologies and health care among the two major interest areas for students there, particularly those at the high school. One resident said Luna could play a significant role in providing opportunities and keeping young minds in the community.

Among the discussion topics was the possibility of different ways to schedule classes and training

programs — “really thinking beyond the traditional,” as President Martinez put it. The discussion mulled condensing certain courses and scheduling different times and cohorts to better suit the needs of students and to better build and establish solid cohorts.

Dual credit was another topic of discussion. Residents raised the idea from an area consortium to emphasize cooperation in acquisition and use of facilities and equipment, along with instructors (ideally from within the community).

On a related note, the forum raised the notions of better use of existing space — including the Springer campus — and closer partnerships among various stakeholders, including the college, public schools, government entities and members of the private sector.

SANTA ROSA

A tour of the Santa Rosa satellite preceded the July 7 community forum. A woodworking shop there has been finished and outfitted with equipment, and initial discussion concerned making the best use of the facility.

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Luna Community College President Dr. Edward Martinez listens to community members in the Mora area during a forum on Friday, July 9, at the LCC Mora site.

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In the forum, residents called for Luna to become more responsive to the industry needs important to Santa Rosa and Guadalupe County. These include tourism, agriculture, wind energy, health care and aquaculture specific to the city. STEM courses, land surveying and real estate programs, programs related to the cannabis industry and maybe basic business leadership courses were also suggested.

Some participants called for increased presence and visibility as well to boost awareness and promote enrollment of prospective students.

Noting the rise in the relative numbers of adult learners with busy lifestyles, President Martinez said the college could look at the advantages of alternate types of scheduling compared to the traditional 16-week semesters. Hybrid courses and different approaches to blending online and on-site learning have been a byproduct of the COVID era, which necessitated a shift to remote modalities. He noted that a PhD program in Colorado now offers primarily online instruction with a two-week on-site component, and that type of mix could be a model for

consideration.

“How can we offer classes that better cater to the community,” he asked. “What does the community demand, and how can Luna benefit from that demand? ... How can we partner with the community in a way that’s beneficial to the community and is also beneficial to Luna?”

MORA

Involving representatives from academic and vocational departments in the recruitment process was one idea brought up in the Mora forum.

Potential EMT and CDL training, along with business, computers, woodworking, quilting, food safety, home economics and budgeting were among the ideas for requested coursework. Surveys were recommended to gauge student interest in potential programs.

Building wireless infrastructure and increasing internet accessibility for rural areas was addressed. Discussions about logistics in financial aid and housing also took place in the July 9 forum.

Participants agreed that the community outreach of the forum was a good step forward in gathering ideas and building partnerships.

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.

Reason to celebrate



Members of the Luna Community College team pose for a photo with Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez (third from left) prior to the Las Vegas Fiesta parade on July 3. It was the first community parade in nearly two years.

Fiesta parade features Team Luna

Smiles and laughter greeted members of Team Luna Community College along the route of the Las Vegas Fiesta Parade on Saturday, July 3.

It was the first community parade since before the COVID pandemic shut down such gatherings in March 2020, and those who participated were hungry for the opportunity to get together with others.

Luna's contingent was led by President Dr. Edward Martinez, who stopped frequently to talk with well-wishers. A group of nearly two dozen

Luna employees and family members joined the president in interacting with parade-goers and handing out Luna merchandise. The college van displayed reminders about Fall '21 registration.

Judging by community reactions and a robust turnout, it was clear that parades — a usual fixture on the calendar throughout northeastern New Mexico — had been sorely missed over the past year and a half. That's also true for Team Luna. The college regularly takes part in community parades over a four-county area including San Miguel, Mora, Colfax and Guadalupe counties.



Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center @ Luna Community College



Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday

\$51 a semester for community members (enroll in PE 112)

\$30 a semester for those age 55 and older

FREE to Luna employees (enroll; sign waiver at business office)

Enrollment is subject to the dates and policies listed in the academic calendar.



Take PE 112, a self-paced class that allows you to work out at your own convenience with weight machines, free weights, cardio equipment and more. Students and members will log in a minimum of 20 dates encompassing 32 or more hours during the semester. Training available upon request.

Facility features treadmills, stationary bikes, stair steppers, ellipticals, free weights, cable weight machines, abdominal and core strength equipment, resistance bands, battle ropes, land mine, hex bars, metal log bar, sled, hurdles; basketball court, boxing room with speed and heavy bags!

For other classes offered at the center, please see updated schedule of classes at luna.edu.

Call 505-454-2517 for more information.

Work out with us!

Summertime fitness on campus



Luna nursing instructor Kim Sena walks her dog around campus during a recent sunny day in Las Vegas. Sena, who is also the Student Nursing Association advisor, is preparing for the fall semester. For more information on Luna's nursing program, please call Sena at 505-454-2566.

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Site visit

Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez (right) and Dr. Paul Burkhardt, a member of the Higher Learning Commission's visiting team, walk out of the administrative suite after a meeting on Tuesday morning. The HLC visited the college last week.

Monsoon season

This photo of the edition was taken from along the banks of the Pecos River near El Valle after a recent rainstorm.



MATH ON THE FLY

Middle school students (grades 6-8), join us for Math On The Fly, an applied mathematics camp that combines learning and fun.

The six-day camp will be held **9 a.m. to noon July 27-29 and Aug. 3-5** on the Luna campus.

The camp is open to students of the Las Vegas City Schools, West Las Vegas Schools and Mora Independent Schools districts.

Registration is open July 6-14. Please call 505-454-2537 or e-mail jvarela@luna.edu for details. The camp will be conducted by the Luna Community College STEM Department.



Math On The Fly
Summer camp
July 27-29, Aug. 3-5, 2021
Luna Community College



STILL REGISTERING!

SPACE LIMITED!

Join our team and help us serve our communities!

Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

FULL-TIME

- Executive administrative assistant to the vice president of instruction ... opened June 30, 2021
- General maintenance II (INTERNAL POSTING ONLY at this time) ... opened April 6, 2021
- Custodian I ... opened Jan. 15, 2021

TEMPORARY PART-TIME

- Preschool substitute teacher/caretaker ... opened June 29, 2021

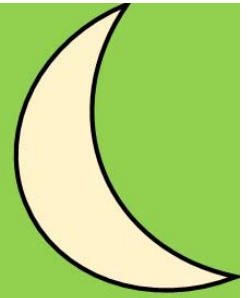
ADJUNCT (per course)

- TBA

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



YOUR TIME AT
LUNA
WILL MAKE YOU
STRONGER.



“It is a healthy environment
and very beneficial to anyone
who really wants to start off
your college career.”

Samantha Romero

Luna Class of '21

JOIN US THIS FALL!

Classes start Aug. 23. Register by Aug. 30.

Visit LUNA.edu or call 1-800-588-7232.

