

Fall enrollment up at Luna



Martin Garcia of the Luna Community College recruitment and admissions office talks to high school students during a New Mexico Education Council College Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Robertson High campus in Las Vegas. Several area high schools attended the event.

Enrollment is up at Luna Community College.

Census Day for the fall 2019 semester was Friday, Sept. 6, and Luna has shown an increase in both the number of students attending and the number of credit hours they are taking, compared to the fall 2018 semester.

Student headcount reported by LCC registrar Henrietta Romero's office is 1,144, a 7 percent increase from the 1,066 enrolled last fall. And the total for student credit hours being taken is 7,622, a 4 percent increase from the 7,319 reported Sept. 7, 2018 – the fall 2018 Census Day.

The fall 2019 semester began on Aug. 19, with the last day to register or add classes Aug. 26. The semester

continues through Dec. 13.

Luna officials are cautiously optimistic that the latest uptick in enrollment is a sign of stabilization and possible growth.

There have been other positive indicators in recent months.

Enrollment from fall 2018 to spring 2019 remained level in terms of headcount, with an increase in the number of credit hours. That's notable, given that most colleges and universities experience at least a slight drop from fall to spring within the same school year.

Then Luna's summer 2019 enrollment showed a 14 percent increase in the number of students and a comparable rise in credit hours compared to the previous summer.

"We are pleased that more

students are recognizing Luna as an excellent choice, either to acquire knowledge and training needed to secure gainful employment or to get an affordable, high-quality start to their higher educational journeys," said Dr. Rolando Rael, LCC president.

"We want to continue to work toward improvement across the institution in every facet of what we do," Rael said. "Our mission is creating opportunities for students and the communities we serve. Strengthening our accreditation status is an ongoing effort for everyone on campus, and we are taking it seriously. But helping students achieve their dreams remains our top priority."

Don't just pass all your classes this fall.

ACE them.



The Academic Center for Excellence has a new, expanded location — Room 139 of the Tech Building (just north of the Admin Building). It's a great place to study or read on your own, with a friend or an entire study group. Get tutoring help in a variety of academic subjects. And take part in special events and activities geared to help you excel. Open 8 to 8 Monday through Thursday, 8 to 5 Friday. Come visit ACE today!



Luna welcomes new VP

Patterson to oversee academics as well as student services

Luna Community College is welcoming a new vice president.

Dr. Kenneth Patterson is the college's new vice president for instruction and student services. He began work on Monday, touring the campus and meeting students, faculty and staff in various departments.

"We are a happy to have someone who is eager to advance Luna with our academic and vocational programs and we look forward to Dr. Patterson's leadership and guidance," said Luna President Dr. Rolando Rael. "We are also looking to his leadership in the area of student services."

While Patterson succeeds Dr. Sharon Lalla as the college's chief academic officer, the new position is actually expanded in scope in that the vice president now oversees student service functions ranging from admissions to financial aid to campus life, counseling and career services.

Patterson emerged as the top choice of an eight-member committee of Luna faculty and staff members. He and three other finalists for the position interviewed with the committee as well as LCC President Dr. Rolando Rael. Additionally, Pat-

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Dr. Kenneth Patterson
Vice President for Instruction and Student Services
Luna Community College



erson and other finalists fielded questions from participants in separate campus forums, and forum participants were invited to provide feedback. The committee considered the feedback during its deliberations before forwarding its recommendation to the president.

A native of Alabama, Patterson has most recently worked with the Institute for Higher Education Policy and The Lumina Foundation while serving as a faculty member and assessment coordinator for Miles College in Birmingham, Ala. He is an independent consultant in higher education and adult learning who also designs online course delivery. He has also recently worked with the Hoover Public Library in Hoover, Ala.

Among his recent professional activities are nationally recognized research in the field of transformative learning applied to peer education of high-risk cultural groups in the area of HIV prevention.

His ongoing research includes exploration of transformative learning in cultural groups and effective practices in creating higher education learning communities.

Patterson understands his approach to higher education as "pragmatic and purpose-driven," geared toward providing "optimal academic and professional opportunities for students and faculty."

"Luna Community College is in the perfect position to offer high-quality options to a wide variety of students," said Patterson. "Highly qualified faculty drive our programs and engage our students, and Luna's staff is keenly focused on quality customer service. There is an outstanding level of commitment to the opportunities Luna offers each student."

Patterson and husband Kevin Thomas – who is a regionally recognized operatic tenor – are relocating from Birmingham, Ala.

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



Bean Day: Something to savor

A team of Luna employees helped Wagon Mound celebrate Bean Day, one of the region’s most exciting annual gatherings, over Labor Day weekend.

Specifically, the group marched in the Sept. 2 parade, mingling with fellow parade-goers and participants and handing out candy and LCC merchandise. The parade theme was “Back to the ‘80s.”

The four-day festival marked the 109th Bean Day. Dating back to 1910, it traditionally celebrated the fall harvest but in modern times serves to promote historical and cultural awareness of the Wagon Mound area.

Although it was a busy summer of parades for Luna — Las Vegas’ Fourth of July Fiestas, the Mora Fiestas and the Colfax County Fair pre-

ceded Bean Day on the schedule — there will be plenty more to look forward to. West Las Vegas (Sept. 20), New Mexico Highlands University (Sept. 21) and Robertson (Sept. 27) all have homecoming parades in the weeks ahead.

For Luna, parades are a chance to keep the public aware of the college and its programs while connecting with the communities it serves.



Candidates file for Luna board election

Twenty-one candidates are seeking election to the Luna Community College Board of Trustees in November's regular local election.

The candidates filed to run on Tuesday, Aug. 27, the lone filing date for school boards. All seven seats on the Luna board are up for election on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Those in districts 1, 3, 5 and 7 are for full six-year terms. Those in districts 2, 4 and 6 are for two-year terms – serving the remainder of the terms vacated by trustees who resigned their positions and were replaced by appointees.

DISTRICT 1

Kenneth C. Medina (incumbent), Las Vegas
Dawn Martinez, Las Vegas
Jaylene Marie Quiles, Las Vegas
Roy Max Herrera Sr., Las Vegas

DISTRICT 2

Candace Ann Thomas, Las Vegas
Mark A. Dominguez (incumbent), Las Vegas
Daniel S. Hernandez, Las Vegas

DISTRICT 3

Phyllis S. Martinez, Mora

George A. Trujillo, Rio de la Casa
Ernie Chavez (incumbent), Cleveland
Herman Richard Medina, La Cordillera
Tim T. Hagaman, Mora

DISTRICT 4

Maria Elena Will-Ross, Santa Rosa
Maximiliano Gilbert Tenorio Jr., Santa Rosa

DISTRICT 5

Meredith A. Britt, Las Vegas
Dianna Medrano, Las Vegas
Julian C. Jaramillo (incumbent), Las Vegas

DISTRICT 6

Louise L. Portillos, Springer
Martin F. Gonzales (incumbent), Las Vegas
Elizabeth K. Ratzlaff, Sapello

DISTRICT 7

Maxine L. Salas, Las Vegas

Incumbents Daniel J. Romero and Eugenio Perez IV did not file for re-election. Romero, who represents District 7, is the current chairman of the board. Perez represents District 4.

2019 Luna
Community
College Board
of Trustees
election

Tuesday,
Nov. 5, 2019

Come check out the
Luna Community College

GAME ROOM!



Located in the Samuel F. Vigil Learning Resource Center, Room 102

Hours of operation:

Mondays	10:30-11:30 a.m.	1-5 p.m.
Tuesdays	11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	3-5 p.m.
Wednesdays	10:30-11:30 a.m.	1-5 p.m.
Thursdays	11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	3-5 p.m.
Fridays	10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	

More possibilities

Kristen Olds, Dr. Kyle Rose and Clint West of New Mexico Highlands University visit with Luna students on Tuesday, Sept. 10, sharing information on transfer opportunities at NMHU. Olds is a transfer admissions counselor, Rose is a forestry professor, and West is a transfer coach with the ARMAS program.



Free Food Options in Las Vegas, NM- Prepared by LV Food Council, generic for 2018 & 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Samaritan House 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 FREE MEAL 6-8 PM Daily		Comedor Soup Kitchen at OLOS Parish Hall 4:30-5:10 PM Produce + Food Pantry bags as available EVERY TUESDAY Victory Life Church Commodity Bags 440 Romeroville Rd 505 425-8847 8-9 AM Homebound delivery only 1 st Tue	Comedor Soup Kitchen at OLOS Parish Hall 1810 Plaza St 4:30-5:10 PM Produce + Food Pantry Bags as available EVERY WEDNESDAY	LV Community Soup Kitchen @ Methodist Church Basement 715 National Ave 12-12:35 PM EVERY THURSDAY		
Samaritan House 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 FREE MEAL 6-8 PM Daily			Samaritan House Commodity Food Bags 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 8-12 noon SECOND WEDNESDAY			
Samaritan House 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 FREE MEAL 6-8 PM Daily				USDA Commodity Food Bags @ Abe Montoya Rec Center 1751 N. Grand Ave 505 242-6777 9-1 PM Seniors only THIRD THURSDAY	School Food Distribution- students public, Luna + NMHU @ Salvation Army 1743 N. Grand Ave 505 425-8083 12-2 PM THIRD FRIDAY	
Samaritan House 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 FREE MEAL 6-8 PM Daily			Salvation Army Commodity Food Bags 1743 N. Grand Ave 505 425-8083 9-until food distributed FOURTH WEDNESDAY			
Samaritan House 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 FREE MEAL 6-8 PM Daily			Samaritan House Commodity Food Bags 1000 Mills Ave 505 454-1390 8-12 noon FIFTH WEDNESDAY When occurs			

Call 505 617-8471 for more information. Commodity distributions require proof of income.



Community Health Fair

Saturday, September 14, 2019
10 am – 1 pm

Alta Vista Regional Hospital — Main Lobby
104 Legion Drive

Blood Pressure Checks • Health Information
Blood Sugar Testing • BMI Testing

For more information, contact Marla Martinez:
505.426.3772 | Marla_Martinez@quorumhealth.com

