

Camp concludes



Program participants, their parents and Luna employees enjoy a celebratory barbecue to conclude the Math On The Fly summer camp hosted by Luna’s STEM department on Thursday, Aug. 5. For more on the camp, please see related story on page 4.

Luna’s Sena achieves doctorate

Nursing instructor says her passion is teaching and guiding students

Luna Community College’s Kim Sena has 12 years of higher education classes under her. And she may not be finished.

The 1998 West Las Vegas High School valedictorian has earned several degrees and certificates — the most

recent a doctorate of nursing practice from New Mexico State University, and a master’s of nursing education from Walden University this past summer and spring, respectively.

“I like learning,” says Sena. “Where there’s an opportunity, I take it. We shouldn’t put ourselves in a box.”

In 2015, Sena earned her registered nursing license after graduating from the Luna nursing program. Sena has been part of the Luna nursing faculty since 2018.



Kim Sena

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“I feel at home here; I felt welcome from day one,” says Sena.

“It has the small town, family feel. Even when I was a student, all the faculty took a genuine interest in my success.”

Among Sena’s higher education experiences are bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work from New Mexico Highlands University and a BSN from Highlands. She also earned a CNA certificate from Luna.

“I want to stay teaching,” says Sena. “Teaching is my passion. My goal is to practice as a psych nurse practitioner, but I definitely want to stay teaching.”

Sena says that although it may appear that life has been a breeze for her, she asks that people take a second look.

“Nothing has ever been given to me,” says Sena. “I didn’t have a

silver platter. With the grace of God, but with the support of my mom, husband and daughter, I have been able to set and reach many goals.”

Sena hopes she serves as an inspiration to her students.

“Never give up,” Sena says. “Underdog stories are all over this campus. I’m so proud to teach my students and watch them grow. Students that graduate from Luna are ready to be leaders in their field.”

Sena says being a role model is something she takes seriously.

“I hope I’m a mentor,” she says. “This quiet, little, shy Hispanic girl that no one pays a second mind to can achieve things. Students need to realize that they can accomplish what they set their mind on. No excuses.”

That word is not part of Sena’s vocabulary.

“I don’t want to slow down,” she

**“Never give up.
Underdog stories are
all over this campus.”**

Kim Sena
Luna Community College
Nursing instructor

says. “I will be eligible to retire in about five years, but I won’t. I want to be able help people. I love the fact that we have a new day. A new day to be fiery and have faith. Happiness is the person that picks to be happy.”

Although more education is not out of the question, for now Sena will concentrate on learning French and relearning how to play the piano.

“I want to take fun classes,” says Sena.



Roll on

Luna CDL students get ready to travel on I-25 as part of their training on Tuesday, Aug. 3. In this route, they pass Grand Avenue before heading north on the interstate under the supervision of instructor Florencio Garcia. For more information on CDL and other Luna Career and Technical Education programs, please call 505-454-2522.



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Math camp hailed as a success



Summer once again was a fine time for camping and making friends at Luna Community College.

The Math On The Fly camp for middle school students came to a memorable close on Thursday, Aug. 5, as Luna's STEM team hosted a cookout for participants, their parents and college employees. The gathering also featured a visual demonstration of science at work.

"We are thrilled to again have these promising young people on our campus for this fun learning activity," said Francisco Apodaca, STEM director. "Thank you to the Las Vegas City Schools, West Las Vegas Schools and Mora Independent Schools, plus all the parents and our dedicated staff for making it happen."

Those three school districts agreed to subsidize the camp, enabling students from those districts to participate free of charge. Several students from outside of the area also ventured to the camp, which was held from 9 a.m. to noon over six days, July 27-29 and Aug. 3-5.

Camp participants learned applied mathematics through daily activities led by the college's STEM instructors. Additionally, they heard from special guest speakers.

Above: A controlled liquid nitrogen explosion of ping pong balls marks the end of the Math On The Fly camp at Luna. Top right: STEM Director Francisco Apodaca and New Mexico MESA Deputy Director Anita Gonzales talk shop as the camp wraps up. Middle right: Student Jade Vigil helps her group work out a problem during camp. Bottom right: Student Elijah Vigil does the math after a lesson from one of the camp instructors.





Among those appearing at or assisting with the camp were (clockwise from top left): Dr. Phyllis Martinez, chairwoman of the Luna trustees; Raymond Sanchez, Area Health Education Centers director; Anita Gonzales, deputy director of New Mexico MESA; and Nichole Collins, Luna STEM instructor.

Colfax County Fair features Luna team



Team Luna's community outreach tour continues with the Colfax County Fair parade on Saturday, Aug. 7, in Springer. Hundreds of people gathered for the event on an idyllic summer morning.







Salute to service

Congratulations to Luna employees Manuel Valdez, Mary Duran and Louie Benavidez, who retired at the end of July. Valdez and Benavidez worked with the physical plant as custodians. Duran served as executive administrative assistant to the vice president of instruction and student services.

Serene beauty

A descenso adds color to the greenery of Holman Hill following a recent rainstorm. This photo of the edition was submitted by Jonathan Lujan.



COVID practices updated at Luna

Luna's COVID-19 Committee is monitoring evolving conditions, guidelines and best practices as the fall semester approaches and will use the best information available to revise campus protocols, said Dr. Edward Martinez, president.

Mask wearing and some social distancing in classroom setting is to be expected, and guidelines will be posted, he said.

Luna employees are being asked to adhere to the following:

- Those fully vaccinated may remain unmasked in regular work areas.
- Those not fully vaccinated should wear masks and practice social distancing.
- In gatherings and meetings, all employees should wear masks and use social distancing.

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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.



Banner day

A large Luna banner adorns the Gallinas River crossing on Bridge Street in Las Vegas, courtesy of the work of city employees and cooperation from the city.



Campus tour

Members of the Luna softball team tour the campus on Tuesday, Aug. 10. As part of the tour, the student-athletes had the opportunity to meet faculty and staff around campus. The first day of the fall semester is Monday, Aug. 23. The last day to register is Monday, Aug. 30.

Join our team and help us serve our communities!

Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

FULL-TIME

- Institutional Effectiveness and Research director/IT director ... opened Aug. 6, 2021
- School of Business director ... opened Aug. 6, 2021
- Custodian I ... opened Aug. 3, 2021
- Executive administrative assistant I ... opened Aug. 2, 2021
- Assistant softball coach ... opened July 29, 2021
- Faculty/staff for College & Career Readiness Institute ... opened July 21, 2021
- Technical electrician ... opened July 14, 2021

TEMPORARY PART-TIME

- Wellness Center technician ... opened July 2, 2021
- Preschool substitute teacher/caretaker ... opened June 29, 2021



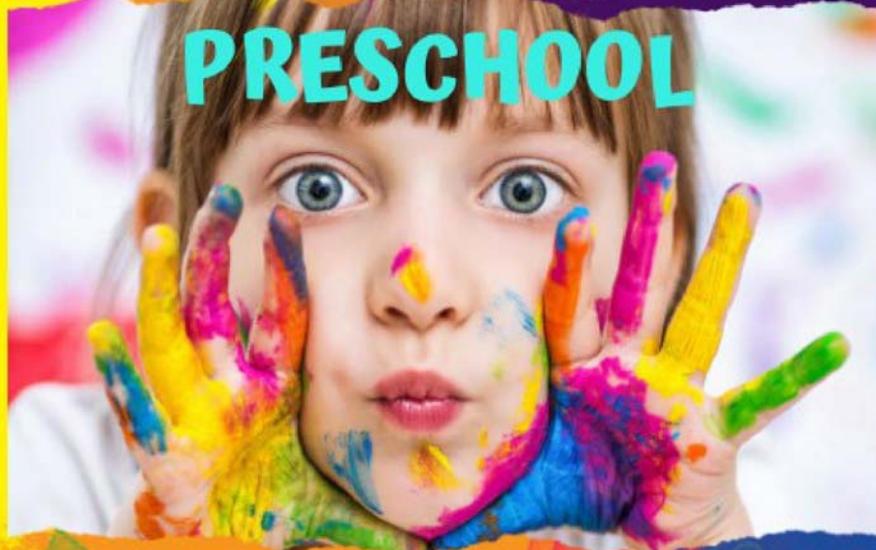
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Most recent postings listed first. All positions open until filled unless otherwise noted. For more information on each position, please log on to our website at <https://www.luna.edu/jobs>



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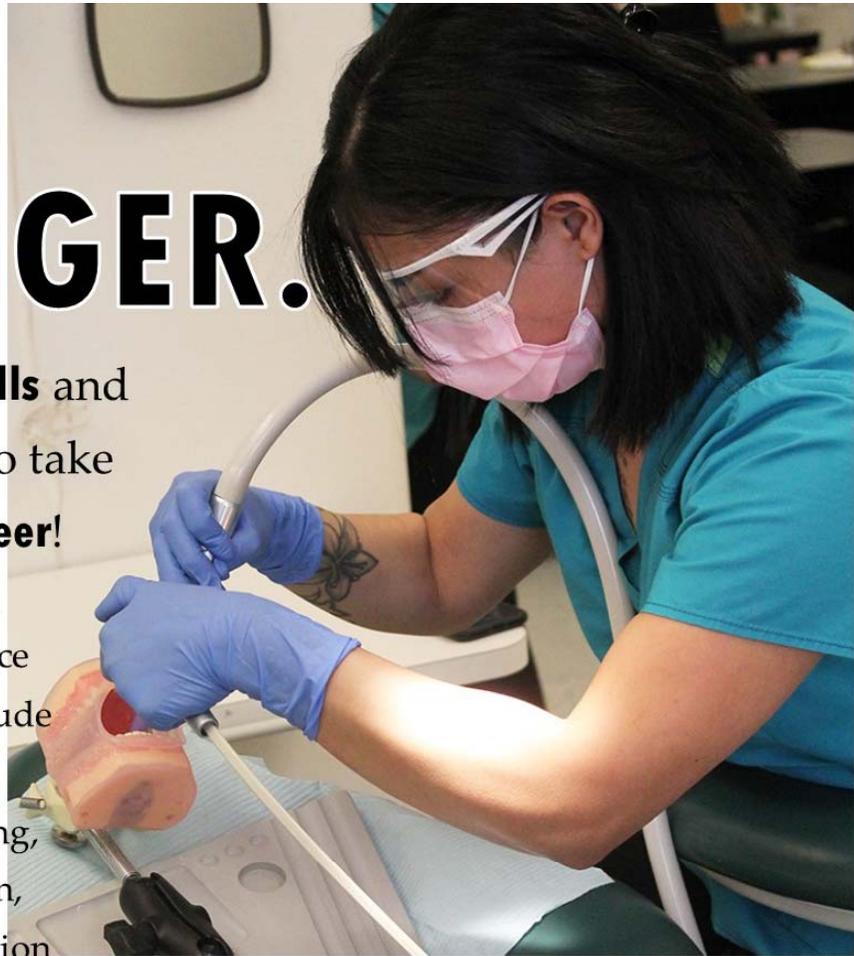
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