



VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2018

Luna's Veterans Resource Center: Bigger and better for your benefit

Luna Community College strongly believes that veterans and their dependents are a measurable and significant population of students in need of services at post-secondary education institutions.

This is why Luna's new Veterans Resource Center has nearly tripled in size. The center was designed to reduce social isolation, support positive transition and promote academic and personal success among veteran students and their dependents.

The VRC's mission is to assist veterans in the transition "From Soldier to Civilian to Student." We coordinate services and address the academic, financial, physical, and social needs of veteran students and their dependents. The VRC provides academic and career services, VA and New Mexico veteran bene-



Pictured is the Veterans Resource Center, located in the Student Services building, upstairs in Room 206. The VRC is open and looking forward to assisting veteran and dependent students in any way possible. The center also provides refreshments and a quiet place to study.

fits, VA educational benefits, peer-to-peer mentoring, individualized counseling and support and a computer lab for student use. We can also connect you with mental health support, tutoring services, community resources and information regarding upcoming workshops.

The center's coordinator will also serve as an academic adviser for veterans and their dependents. This service includes assistance with applying for initial VA education benefits and re-

newals, simplifying the process of accessing GI Bill benefits.

The VRC is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center is equipped with a comfortable place to study, computers with a printer, a lounge area with couches, refrigerator, beverages, coffee and a microwave for student use.

Please feel free to visit the VRC for all of your needs.

LUNA KEEPS ACCREDITATION

College placed on probation and is working on being “Better Than Ever”

Luna Community College received great news from the Higher Learning — it’s keeping its accreditation.

In a letter sent to the college, the Higher Learning Commission removed the show-cause order for Luna and placed the college on probation. Probation is a sanction meaning that an accredited institution is no longer in compliance with one or more of the Higher Learning Commission’s criteria for accreditation. While on probation, the college remains accredited, and it has the opportunity to remedy the issues that led to the sanction. The period of probation is not more than two years. In taking this action, the board considered materials from the recent show-cause evaluation, including, but not limited to the show-cause report, the report of the visiting team, the board committee hearing transcript, and the institution’s responses to these reports.

Luna was placed on a show-cause order in November 2017. “From the beginning, being placed on show-cause has been a blessing and opportunity for Luna to get better,” said Luna Interim President Ricky Serna. “We embraced it and have come out a highly functional and quality institution. We are truly better than ever and can’t wait to show the residents of northeastern New Mexico what we have to offer. The ongoing monitoring that will come with probation will ensure we stay on track and grow in the areas of concern. This is a special place, and I invite everyone to see what’s happening at Luna.”

The college is required to provide evidence that it has addressed the issues that led to the sanction, no later than March 1, 2019, in preparation for the Higher Learning Commission’s on-site evaluation, which will take place no later than May 2019. In November 2019, the Higher Learning Commission Board of Trustees will determine whether the institution has demonstrated that it is in compliance with the criteria for accreditation



Luna Community College students Iliana Garcia, Jovanna Gastelum, Savannah Ruiz, Chavela Colio and Dontae Robertson sport Luna T-shirts with a tagline #LCCmatters. The idea behind the #LCCmatters campaign is to reinforce and strengthen all stakeholders’ belief that Luna Community College is important. The college began this campaign in December.

and whether probation can be removed. The Higher Learning Commission is one of several regional accreditors that accredit colleges and universities. Its mission is “serving the common good by assuring and advancing the quality of higher learning.” The Higher Learning Commission accredits colleges and universities in a 19-state region of the United States, including New Mexico. Among the things the college has done over the last several months is prepare a report in response to the show-cause order that was due on Feb. 1. That was followed by an on-campus show-cause evaluation visit conducted by Higher Learning Commission peer reviewers in March. Most recently, six Luna employees along with one member of the board of trustees represented the college at a Higher Learning Commission hearing in late May.

Detailed documents related to the Higher Learning Commission’s board’s decision, as transmitted to Luna Community College, as well as more information about the probation order can be accessed by clicking on the Higher Learning Commission’s Mark of Affiliation at the bottom of the college’s main landing page at www.luna.edu and following the hyperlinks to the college’s profile on the Higher Learning Commission’s website, or by searching for Luna Community College’s profile directly on the Higher Learning Commission’s website at www.hlcommission.org.

Article courtesy of Jesse Gallegos

CLASS OF 2018

Congratulations to the following veteran and dependent 2018 LCC Graduates

Adam Albert Maldonado, AGS General Studies
Amy April Vigil-Brito, Allied Health Certificate
Andy Jae Yates, Welding Certificate, *summa cum laude*
Andy Jae Yates, AAS Vocational/Technical Studies, *summa cum laude*
Domonique M. Crisostomo, Allied Health Certificate, *magna cum laude, phi theta kappa*
Gertrude Adriana Herrera, Dental Assistant Certificate, *summa cum laude*
Gertrude Adriana Herrera, AAS Vocational/Technical Studies, *summa cum laude*
Gilbert J. Garcia, AAS General Science
Kaitlyn A. Romero, AAS Nursing
Mario Ngirausui Tapia, AAS Computer Science
MaryAnn Baca Lujan Baca, AAS Accounting, *cum laude*
Nikki Renee Mares, AAS Allied Health
Pedro Ramon Ortiz, AGS General Studies, *phi theta kappa*
Travis Aaron Baca, Automotive Technology Certificate



VICE PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following veteran and dependent students named to the Vice President's Honor Roll

Inclusion on the Vice President's Honor Roll requires that a student successfully complete a minimum of 12 graded credit hours with a minimum of 3.66 grade point average or higher. Graded credit hours do not include S/U graded courses, audits, or credit by exam.

- **FALL 2017**

Adam Maldonado
Maryann Baca
Raymond Lemasters

- **SPRING 2018**

Bonaventure Sante
Domonique Crisostomo
Saige Martinez
Travis Baca



*VRC apologizes to any Veterans and Dependents that may have been left out. Names are based on self-disclosed Veterans and Dependents and/or VRC visits.



Communities
of Mora, San
Miguel, Colfax



EMPLOYMENT HIRING EVENT

FRIDAY, SEPT. 14

Luna Community College

Media Arts Center

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Bring resume

Dress for success

For more information, please contact:

Andrea Martinez (505) 429-1293

andreamartinez@serjfp.org

Debbie Montano (505) 429-3509

dmontano@serjfp.org

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Visit VRC for the following scholarship opportunities for veterans

Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a military career transition program that helps eligible members of the armed forces begin new careers as K-12 public school teachers. Skills and traits acquired in the military — like leadership, initiative, discipline, integrity and the ability to thrive in an ever-changing environment — are a natural fit for the classroom.

Battlefields to Ballfields

The Battlefields to Ballfields Foundation (B2B) has teamed up with the New Mexico Officials Association (NMOA) to offer scholarships to active military members and military veterans to defray the start-up costs of officiating. This can include registration fees, camp/clinic fees and uniforms. In addition, the NMOA will pair you with a current official who has a military background as your mentor so that you have someone to help you through the process who “speaks the same language” as you.

ACE TUTORS



STEM Tutors



Tutor	Subject	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Auritha	Math/Science	10 a.m. to 11 a.m. & 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.	4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. & 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.	5 p.m. to 8 p.m.	4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. & 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.	
JaMarcus	Math/Science	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.		7 p.m. to 8 p.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Brittney	Math/Science	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.		3 p.m. to 5 p.m. 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Robert	Math/Science/Humanities	9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.	2 p.m. to 8 p.m.	
Saige	Math/Science	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.	
Ethan	Math/Science	3 p.m. to 6 p.m.				8 a.m. to 9 a.m. 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Vanetia	Math/Science				11 a.m. to 5 p.m.	8 a.m. to 9 a.m. 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. & Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tutors are located in the Maria H. Paiz Administration Building TE-120 (ACE Lab).
For more info contact Ray Varella at (505) 454-5306 or rvarella@luna.edu.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

September is Suicide Prevention Month. Please stop by the VRC for further information and resources.

September is **Suicide Prevention Month**

#BeThere



for Veterans and
Service members.



VeteransCrisisLine.net/BeThere



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Confidential crisis chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net

STUDENT VETERANS RETREAT

Visit VRC for the following Student Veteran opportunity and for assistance with application.

Student Veterans Retreat

Making Connections
Developing Skills
Discovering Peace of Mind



Connect with other student veterans and learn mindfulness skills in a beautiful natural setting. All military veterans attending a higher education institution in New Mexico may apply.

Free of Charge for Attendees

October 10th -14th 2018
Vallecitos Mountain Retreat Center
Apply at vrc.unm.edu

Useful Resources

Student Veterans Retreat

WORK STUDY OPPORTUNITY

The Veterans Resource Center and Registrar are currently looking for a VA work study. Student must be a veteran or veteran-dependent student and currently using GI Bill education benefits. For more information and application, please visit Sarah Cantu at Veterans Resource Center.

GRADUATION CLEARANCE

Students who are planning to graduate after completion of the Fall 2018 semester will need to apply to graduate with the Registrar's office no later than November 16, 2018.

UPCOMING DATES

LCC EVENTS

Northeastern N.M. Regional Workforce Summit: Sept. 13 & 14, LCC Media Arts Center
2018 College Night: Oct. 24, 5-8 p.m., NMHU Wilson Complex



VETERAN EVENTS

Military & Veterans Day: Sept. 11, New Mexico State Fair
(Free admission to veterans and active-duty military personnel)
Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk: Sept. 29, 10 a.m. to noon
Student Veterans Retreat: Oct. 10-14, hosted by UNM; registration required

*For more information on any upcoming events please contact LCC Veterans Resource Center.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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scantu@luna.edu
(505) 454-5343

