

# Luna students key in vaccine effort

*State credits students' role in raising awareness, giving shots*

Students and employees at Luna Community College and other colleges and universities across the state have played a major role in administering the COVID-19 vaccine and raising awareness about the importance of getting fully vaccinated for personal, campus and community health.

“As we look forward to the approaching summer and fall semesters, it is critical that all eligible students, staff and faculty get fully vaccinated in order to ensure the successful return to in-person learning and campus activities,” said Stephanie Rodriguez, New Mexico Secretary of Higher Education. “The state has met its 60 percent goal, and higher education was part of that equation.”

While all New Mexicans age 12 and older are now able to receive the vaccine, only 43 percent of those age 18-24 have received their



**MORE: See Page 2**

Continued from Page 1

first dose, and 36 percent have completed their vaccination series.

Last month, the White House and U.S. Department of Education began inviting colleges and universities to join the national COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge, asking them to engage all students, faculty and staff; expand vaccine access; and organize their campus communities to champion access. New Mexico State University, the University of New Mexico, Central New Mexico Community College, UNM-Taos, Navajo Technical University, Eastern New Mexico University and New Mexico Tech have signed on.

“My friends and I got vaccinated so we can feel comfortable to travel and to be safe going to work and class,” UNM student Chris Naranjo said.

“A lot of young people are essential workers like myself,” UNM senior Grace Conlin said. “I also had not seen my elders since the pandemic started, so that was my reason for getting the vaccine.”

Naranjo and Conlin work as part of UNM’s Student Health and Counseling Center, which has been working to educate students about the COVID-19 vaccine and debunk myths surrounding it. They observed that reasons for college students not getting the vaccine include not feeling susceptible to the virus, not knowing that the vaccine is free, and not having ready access to vaccines on campus or at times that work for them.

Student leaders at UNM,

Northern New Mexico College, Western New Mexico and CNM also shared videos on social media encouraging fellow students and community members to get vaccinated.

Several colleges and universities like Luna have partnered with the Department of Health and local providers to host vaccine clinics, many of which are also open to the community at large. At schools with nursing programs, the clinics have also presented an opportunity for students to gain clinical experience and learn about public health in a real-world setting.

“Our students were excited to see the look on people’s faces when they got the shot,” said Maxine Hughes, director of the Luna nursing program. “There was a limited number of public health nurses, so having the students helped us to be able to get more people through and provided relief to the other nurses.”

Clinics hosted in Las Vegas enlisted 41 student nurses to administer vaccines to the community and senior citizens under the supervision of nursing faculty. The clinic served around 300 patients per day.

Northern New Mexico College, Santa Fe Community College, New Mexico Tech, Mesalands Community College, and ENMU-Roswell have also hosted or plan to host vaccine events this month. NMSU is also offering mobile vaccine clinics statewide via its Cooperative Extension Service.

Incentives including drawings, grab bags and gift cards to campus

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**Maxine Hughes**  
Director, Department of Nursing,  
Luna Community College

bookstores have also been offered on some campuses in an effort to increase vaccination rates. Faculty and staff have been offered paid leave to attend vaccine appointments. Students over the age of 18 are also eligible to participate in New Mexico’s \$5 million vaccine sweepstakes at [vax2themaxnm.org](http://vax2themaxnm.org).

College students and all New Mexicans are encouraged to sign up for their free and convenient appointment at [vaccinenm.org](http://vaccinenm.org). A listing of local vaccine clinics and events can be accessed via the COVID-19 public calendar.

Efforts at Luna have included a “Rough Up The Virus” initiative and participation in statewide public information campaigns.

**— New Mexico Department of Higher Education and Luna Light staff reports**



## Valuable meetings

Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez and the LCC Board of Trustees met with educational and business stakeholders during roundtable discussions on Wednesday, June 23 and Thursday, June 24. The roundtable discussions were part of a two-day training retreat for the president and board held at New Mexico Highlands University.

# Stakeholders meet president, BOT

*Roundtable luncheons hailed as positive outreach effort for Luna*

More than 30 community members within Luna Community College's service area attended educational and business roundtable luncheons with Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez and the LCC Board of Trustees on Wednesday, June 23 and Thursday, June 24.

"It was a real positive event for Luna and everyone involved," said West Las Vegas Superintendent Chris Gutierrez. "It was something that was needed. It's clear that students are in the best interest of Luna's new president Dr. Edward Martinez and the Luna board of

trustees."

The business roundtable luncheon, facilitated by Las Vegas-San Miguel Chamber of Commerce President Phillip Martinez, was part of a two-day training retreat for the trustees and president. It was held on the campus of New Mexico Highlands University.

"The event was great," said Phillip Martinez. "We are getting so many compliments on how well it went and about all the good information that was exchanged. We really appreciate that Luna is reaching out to the community."

Participants had the opportunity

to meet Dr. Martinez, who began his presidency at Luna on Monday, June 21.

"Community members asked questions and made suggestions to Dr. Martinez and the board of trustees on how the college should move forward," said Phillip Martinez. "I would love to go to more of these types of discussions."

Among those in attendance were individuals from Las Vegas, Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer. Luna has its main campus in Las Vegas, a site in Mora and satellites in Santa Rosa

**MORE: See Page 4**



## Hands-on learning returns at Luna

Luna welding student Rico Gallegos prepares for an American Welding Society certification test in the fall semester. Luna welding instructor Gene Martinez will have his students take the AWS certification test in August, giving them enough time to prepare. AWS certifiers make several trips a year to Luna. For more on the Luna welding program, please call 505-454-2530.

## Luna closed July 5

Luna Community College in Las Vegas and its campuses in Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer will be closed on Monday, July 5, in recognition of Independence Day.

The college will resume its regular hours on Tuesday, July 6. Fall classes start Monday, Aug. 23, and the last day to register is Monday, Aug. 30. For more information, call us at 1-800-588-7232 or visit us at luna.edu. All Luna campuses are now open.

## Roundtable

Continued from Page 3

and Springer.

Other topics of the two-day training retreat were communication preferences between the BOT and the president, effective governance, strategic needs assessment of the college's strategic plan, and evaluation process of the president.

"I was really happy with the participation in the roundtable luncheons," said Dr. Martinez. "We learned a lot on what the community wants and expects from us. Luna will be having more of these events throughout our service area in the near future. Overall, the retreat went extremely well. There was a lot of good information that will assist us as we move Luna forward."

**"We really appreciate that Luna is reaching out to the community."**

**Phillip Martinez**  
Las Vegas-San Miguel Chamber of Commerce

## A splash of summer color

Luna quilting student Rosita Ellis works with blocks on the design wall during a recent quilting class. The entire quilting class this summer is working on a blanket that will have nearly 200 blocks once it is finished. The class is currently situated in the Humanities Department and is scheduled to have two sections in the fall. Classes will be taught on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. For more information on quilting classes, please call 505-454-2530.



## Busy start for President Martinez

*Introductory gatherings, training retreat with trustees highlight week*

On his first official week as the new president of Luna Community College, Dr. Edward Martinez certainly hit the ground running.

Martinez took time on his first day, Monday, June 21, to host an informal meet-and-greet gathering open to all Luna employees. The new president introduced himself and met individually with each of the dozens of faculty and staff who attended at the college's Media Education Center atrium.

On Wednesday June 23 and Thursday, June 24 Martinez took part in a two-day training retreat with the Luna Board of Trustees. The retreat was held on the campus of nearby New Mexico Highlands



University.

In the weeks ahead, Martinez is expected to meet with individual department units for further exchanges about the college's operations and plans.

Luna's board of trustees selected Martinez after a search that opened in January and included separate interviews with the board as well as community forums streamed live on Luna's YouTube channel.



## Dental assisting program ready for fall semester

Luna dental assisting program administrator Gloria Pacheco prepares for the upcoming fall semester. Pacheco has been involved with the program for more than 20 years. She notes that dental assistants are committed to professional development and quality dental care. For more information on the program, please call Pacheco at 505-454-2528.

## Productive summer in Humanities

Luna Humanities Department instructor Larry Fields completes work in his office between recent summer classes. Fields, who primarily teaches English classes, encourages potential students to visit the Luna campus to see what it has to offer. For more information on the Humanities Department, please call 505-454-2565.





## Luna celebrates Family Fun Day

Luna faculty and staff — and their families — take advantage of the opportunity to socialize during the Family Fun Day event on Friday, June 25. The gathering, which included a cookout, music and games, drew nearly 200 participants. Luna's staff senate, physical plant staff and volunteers worked together to plan and coordinate the event. A number of those in attendance called it a welcome diversion and great chance to get together with co-workers especially after the extended shutdowns of COVID-19. Luna's trustees and administrators contributed to co-sponsor the event.



# 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](http://luna.edu).

Call 505-454-2517 for more information.

## Work out with us!



# Luna STEM planning 'Math On The Fly' camp

*Learning, fun in camp for middle school students*

To many middle school students – not to mention countless others of all ages – mathematics may seem like either a mystery or a subject confined to classroom learning without practical significance.

The reality, as Luna Community College STEM Director Francisco Apodaca points out, is that math is everywhere, an integral part of our daily lives whether we realize it or not. And learning math needn't be a chore or a process limited to the traditional classroom environment.

"Learning math is important, but it can and should be fun," Apodaca says. "That's what we are emphasizing with our upcoming camp."

The "Math On The Fly" summer camp is planned for July 27-29 and Aug. 3-5 at Luna Community College. The camp is designed for area students entering grades six through eight. It will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on campus. Students entering grades six through eight in the Las Vegas City Schools, West Las Vegas Schools and Mora Independent Schools districts are invited.

"Math is a part of our lives, from using a tape measure to figuring out how many miles we get per gallon to counting how many laps around the track it takes to walk a mile," Apodaca said. "This camp helps students apply math. It helps them get over the stigma that 'I can't do math,' and shows that math is essential for life – and it can be fun."



Registration is open July 6-14. To register, please contact Luna STEM advisor Janice Varela, 505-454-2537 or [jvarela@luna.edu](mailto:jvarela@luna.edu). Camp fee is \$100 per student, with proceeds going to defray associated costs. Snacks, supplies and a camp T-shirt will be provided to each participant. Enrollment will be limited to the first 100 students who register.

For more information on the camp, please call Apodaca at 505-454-2510 or e-mail him at [fapodaca@luna.edu](mailto:fapodaca@luna.edu).

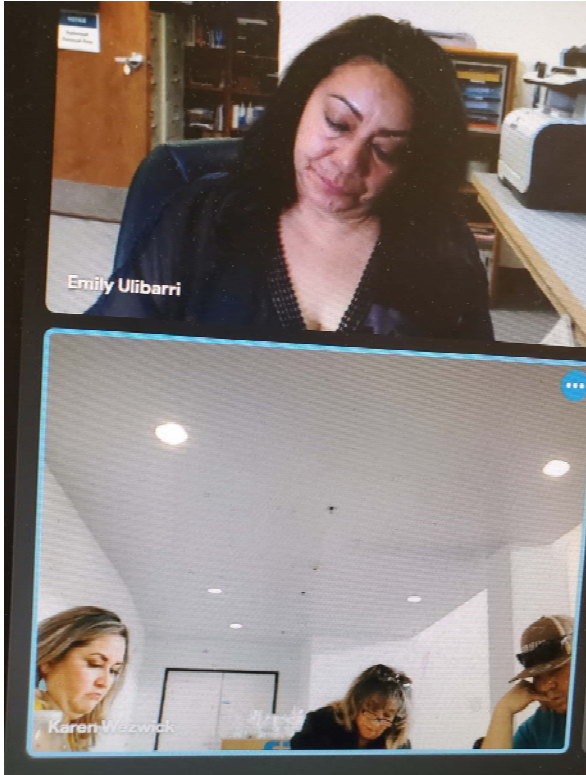
Luna Community College faculty members, primarily from the STEM department, will lead the instruction and daily activities that will help students gain knowledge and confidence in practical math skills, teamwork and critical thinking. Other local educators and presenters are likely to be involved as well.

**MORE: See Page 10**

## 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).*



Luna staff senators deliberate during a recent meeting. Emily Ulibarri (top) participates remotely from Santa Rosa.

## Four elected to staff senate

Luna’s staff senate formally recognized its four newly elected members during the senate’s regular meeting June 24.

Raymond Varela will be a new addition to the senate, succeeding outgoing Karen Wezwick in representing the Professional group. Shannon Ortiz (Technicians), Emily Ulibarri (Administrative

Assistants) and Lawrence Vigil (General Maintenance) were all re-elected to the senate. Voting ended on June 18.

They join Georgia Baca, Matthew Cordova, Jessica Flores and Gloria Pacheco, who were not up for election this round.

The next meeting of the staff senate is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 7.



## JULY JOB FAIR

FOR RESTAURANTS  
and INTERESTED BUSINESSES

**WHO:** Restaurant management and businesses interested in hiring and/or interviewing or giving out applications, meeting candidates or on the spot employment

**WHAT:** Hiring event as well as an opportunity to meet potential employers

**WHEN:** Tuesday July 13, 2021 7/13/21

**WHAT TIME:** 10:00am to 2:00pm

**WHERE:** Plaza Hotel Ballroom

**Sponsored by the Historic Plaza Hotel and Prairie Hill Café**

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE:** **RSVP** at 505-425-3707 or via Email: [lvsmchamberofcommerce@gmail.com](mailto:lvsmchamberofcommerce@gmail.com) **ASAP**

Transportation within City Limits provided by Meadow City Express, must call

**in advance 505-454-8583 Must specify "JOB FAIR"**

## Math camp

Continued from Page 9

Luna’s STEM Department has conducted similar educational summer camps in recent years but was prevented from doing so in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

“We are thrilled to be able to again host a summer camp on the Luna campus,” Apodaca said. “The purpose is to give these young people an opportunity to enhance their proficiency in math so they are able to excel in school – and so they get a clear idea about the importance of math to their lives and their futures. Our instructors are excited about making this a memorable summer camp for every participant.”

COVID-safe protocols will be followed.



## Welcome to the Rough Riders

Luna Community College softball coach Steve Wallace recently signed Shelby Cordova and Amber Mecale from Miyamura High School in Gallup. Cordova, a shortstop, intends to major in criminal justice while Mecale, a catcher, intends to major in allied health. Pictured from left are Vincent Garcia, Stella Garcia, Antonio Lovato, Shelby Cordova, Cassie Gomez, Audrienne Garcia, Jason Cordova, Amber Mecale, Rick Mecale and Coach Wallace.

## Summer sunset

This photo of the edition, submitted by Jonathan Lujan, depicts the sunset at the Las Vegas Wildlife Refuge.



Join us for  
**Luna  
Day**  
in  
**Springer**

A public  
meet & greet  
July 6

**WHAT:** A public meet & greet  
with Luna Community College  
President Dr. Edward Martinez

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, July 6

**WHERE:** LCC Springer satellite

- Meet new Luna President  
Dr. Edward Martinez!
- Learn more about the college  
and its offerings as well as its  
commitment to Springer  
and the rest of District 6.
- Bring your thoughts and ideas  
for Luna Community College,  
its satellite locations, and  
continuing education.



Join us for

**Luna**

**Day**

in

**Santa**

**Rosa**

A public  
meet & greet

July 7

**WHAT:** A public meet & greet  
with Luna Community College  
President Dr. Edward Martinez

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, July 7

**WHERE:** LCC Santa Rosa  
satellite

- Meet new Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez!
- Learn more about the college and its offerings as well as its commitment to Santa Rosa and the rest of District 4.
- Bring your thoughts and ideas for Luna Community College, its satellite locations, and continuing education.



Join us for

**Luna**

**Day**

in

**Mora**

A public  
meet & greet

July 9

**WHAT:** A public meet & greet  
with Luna Community College  
President Dr. Edward Martinez

**WHEN:** 3:30 p.m.

Friday, July 9

**WHERE:** LCC Mora site

- Meet new Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez!
- Learn more about the college and its offerings as well as its commitment to Mora and the rest of District 3.
- Bring your thoughts and ideas for Luna Community College, its satellite locations, and continuing education.





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](mailto:studentsuccess@luna.edu)

Study guides available:

**[accuplacer.org](http://accuplacer.org)**

under "Information for Students"



Get **hands-on training** in a field that will lead to **a great job!**

Luna's Career & Technical Education Department offers certificate programs in automotive technology, auto collision repair, welding, commercial driver's license, barbering and cosmetology and more!

## **FALL 2021 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

Fall classes start Aug. 23; registration ongoing through Aug. 30.

Tuition rates at Luna are among the most affordable in the nation, and financial aid is available.

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

