

Dental assistant program sends off its graduates



The Luna dental assisting program celebrated a successful completion to the 2018-19 school year with a pinning ceremony on Thursday, July 25. Pictured from left are instructor Dawna Ortega-Gallegos, Destiny Lujan, Terrilee Vasquez, Mariano Gallegos, Destinee DeHerrera and program administrator Gloria Pacheco. See Pages 4-5 for more images from the event.

Four Luna dental assisting students were recognized during a pinning ceremony on Thursday, July 25, at the Allied Health Auditorium.

Destinee DeHerrera, Mariano Gallegos, Destiny Lujan and Terrilee Vasquez all successfully completed the program. In addition, the four students took part in a candle lighting and oath ceremony.

The evening was emotional, as

11-year instructor Dawna Ortega-Gallegos announced her departure. Ortega-Gallegos worked with colleague and dental assisting program administrator Gloria Pacheco throughout her tenure. Both fought off tears all through the evening.

"I want to thank all my students and Gloria for helping me be a successful teacher," said Ortega-Gallegos.

Among those who spoke were

Luna President Dr. Rolando Rael, Allied Health Interim Director Francisco Apodaca and former student Nallely Martinez.

"This is a night of celebration," said Pacheco. "These students put in a lot of energy, sweat and possibly tears. Make your life a masterpiece. Don't accept the words 'I can't.' ... I want to thank Dawna for all her years of dedication."

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BOOK ORDERING PROCEDURE

Luna Community College's Bookstore Opens August 1, 2019

Welcome to MBS Direct

MBS Direct has partnered with your school to provide a customized online bookstore. This bookstore is built around a course-driven system that ensures you order and receive the right book, right on time. Your textbooks and course materials are shipped from a state-of-the-art warehouse that is fully operational 24 hours a day, 5 days a week.

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Luna contingent to meet with HLC representatives

Key meeting set for Aug. 12 in Chicago

Luna Community College will make its case for continued accreditation when a team of five college representatives visits Chicago on Aug. 12.

The Luna group — which will include President Dr. Rolando Rael, Chief Financial Officer Donna Flores-Medina, registrar Henrietta Romero, staff member Sierra Fernandez and Board of Trustees Chairman Daniel Romero — is due to meet with the Higher Learning Commission's Institutional Action Council Hearing Committee.

The Aug. 12 meeting will give the Luna contingent an opportunity to discuss the college's ongoing work to meet accreditation criteria and to remedy areas the HLC deemed as requiring improvement.

The college remains accredited by

the HLC, as it has been since 1982.

In July 2018, Luna was upgraded to probationary status after having been issued a show-cause order the previous year. Since the initial show-cause order, a number of Luna employees have worked together to develop and enact plans for improvement in critical areas and otherwise.

A site-visit team from the HLC visited campus in March, meeting with various stakeholders and compiling an 87-page report. The team found that while Luna is meeting 18 of 21 core components for accreditation, the college has not met three, with several other core components found to meet "with concerns" the criteria established by the HLC.

In another round of collaborative work this summer, Luna faculty, staff and administrators — with input from students — worked to address issues raised in that report. The college submitted its formal response documenting the latest improvement



Luna STEM advisor Janice Varela, right, chats with members of the HLC site-visit team in late March during a community breakfast event with the group.

strategies and actions on July 9. President Rael has hailed the response as an exemplary team effort on behalf of the college.

The HLC is to consider the written reports as well as this month's face-to-face meeting as it makes a determination as to Luna's accreditation status. That decision is expected by November.

Students can win \$100 book voucher

MBS, Luna's textbook partner, has provided the college with 20 \$100 book vouchers for online bookstore purchases. All students registered for six or more credit hours this fall are eligible for the drawing.

The textbook vouchers will be given away in random drawings on Friday, Aug. 16. Students are reminded

to get a valid Luna student e-mail to help ensure prompt notification.

For more information, please call Luna Bookstore manager Ron Duran at 454-2569 or e-mail him at rduran@luna.edu. Duran will have computers set up for student use to place online book orders and will give direct assistance as needed.

The Luna Bookstore (onsite) has a limited quantity of textbooks for the fall semester that will be sold at a discounted price. Luna and MBS Direct partnered earlier this summer to ensure that students' textbook needs will be met. Beginning on Aug. 1, Luna students can order their textbooks for the fall semester.

Dental assistant grads celebrated

Emotions run high as four graduates of Luna's dental assistant program are honored in a July 25 ceremony on campus. The Class of 2019 includes Destinee DeHerrera, Mariano Gallegos, Destiny Lujan and Terrilee Vasquez. For more information on the dental assistant program and other great certificate and degree options at Luna, visit luna.edu. Fall classes begin Aug. 19, with last day to register Aug. 26.







Luna employees get together July 25 for an end-of-the-semester breakfast at the Media Education Center. Several dozen employees enjoyed the breakfast, which included eggs, sausage, pancakes, tortillas, green chile, fruit, coffee and juice.

The road to success can take many turns.
It helps to have a road map.



Are you a new or transfer student at Luna Community College?

Join us for LCC Student Orientation 2019!

Orientation takes place **8 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 16, at the LCC Media Education Center**, followed by a luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meet your advisors and create your Fall 2019 schedule!

Learn the keys to college success!

Students attending orientation will be eligible for a drawing to win an RCA Cambio 2-in-1 notebook/tablet!

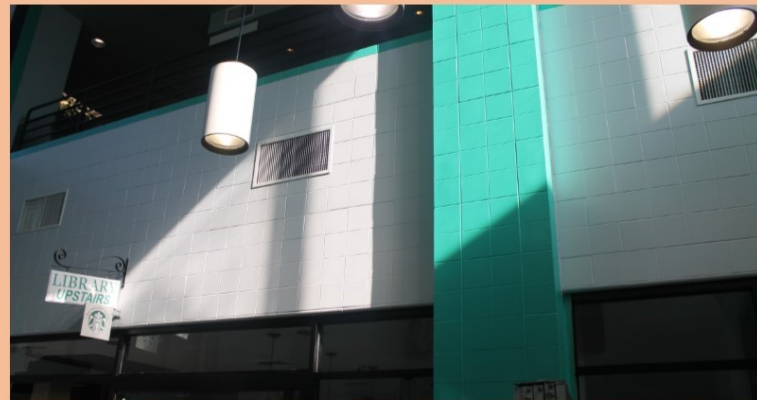
Fall 2019 classes begin Monday, Aug. 19. Schedule available on our website, www.luna.edu.



Student Orientation ... 8 a.m. Aug. 16 @ the MEC

Fresh paint for fall

Luna's Manuel Valdez applies fresh paint to a pillar in the Samuel F. Vigil Learning Resource Center on July 24. Valdez is completing work on the painting project, part of campus renovation work by Luna's buildings and grounds crews in advance of the Fall 2019 semester. Valdez said he will also work on the entrances and hallways of the building. The work Valdez has done has given the building a fresh new look enjoyed by students and employees. "This has been the most challenging painting project since I've been here because of the height of the interior and type of painting materials I used to complete the job," Valdez said. Registration for fall is ongoing through Aug. 26, with the first day of classes Aug. 19.



Dental...

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Rael echoed Pacheco's sentiments.

"I want to congratulate all four graduates on their achievement," said Rael. "You and your family

had a lot of dedication to accomplish this goal. There is no reason you have to stop where you're at with your education. I know that you will do well in your career fields."

Apodaca also expressed pride in the students' achievements.

"You all have done a lot to get here; congratulations on your ac-

complishment. I know all of you will do well on your journey," said Apodaca.

Martinez, who is applying for dental school, said she enjoys her chosen field.

"It's been a lot of fun for me," said Martinez. "Remember there is always more to look forward to. There's always opportunity."

Science learning comes to life for area youngsters in STEM-reading camp



Dozens of area youngsters — who'll be entering grade five through nine this fall — collect water samples from the Gallinas River as part of hands-on learning in the LCC STEM-reading camp. Several Luna students, instructors and staff members are guiding the monthlong camp activities, which conclude on Aug. 9.



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