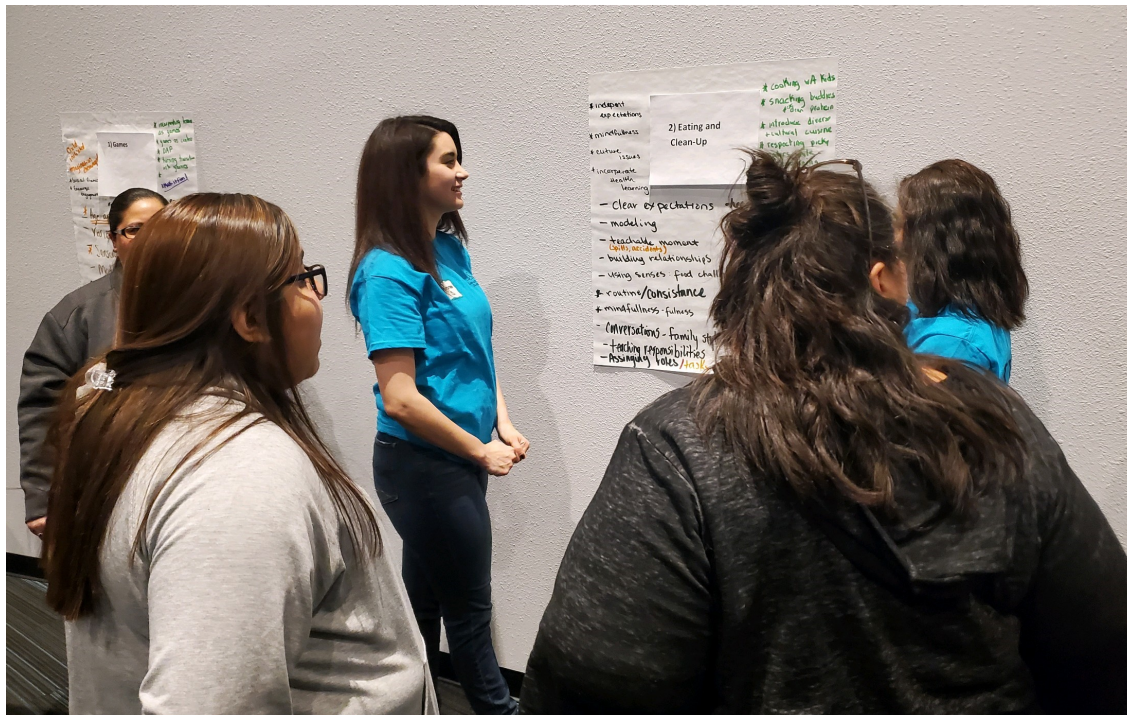


The latest news from Luna Community College

Second Volume 3, Issue 5

March 13, 2020



Early childhood education teachers and administrators take part in workshop activities as part of the “Mind In The Making” professional development co-hosted by Luna’s education department and UNM’s Family Development Program.

Educators develop fresh approaches

Luna, UNM join for ‘Mind In The Making’

“Mind In The Making,” the first of a three-part series of professional development trainings co-hosted by Luna Community College and UNM’s Family Development Program, drew rave reviews from participants and presenters alike.

“Attending a workshop of this kind enriches any person’s learning and practice so much,” said Karen Wezwick.

“I really enjoyed this workshop, and I plan on attending the next,” said Bernadette Romero. “I will

definitely plan on getting a higher degree and become an LCC student in the near future.”

“Thank you for providing the opportunity to learn in a comfortable environment,” said Annette Garza. “You all rock! Please bring more trainings and workshops ...”

Others called the two-day training, held Feb. 27-28 at the Media Education Center, “engaging,” “lively” and “desperately needed for Las Vegas.”

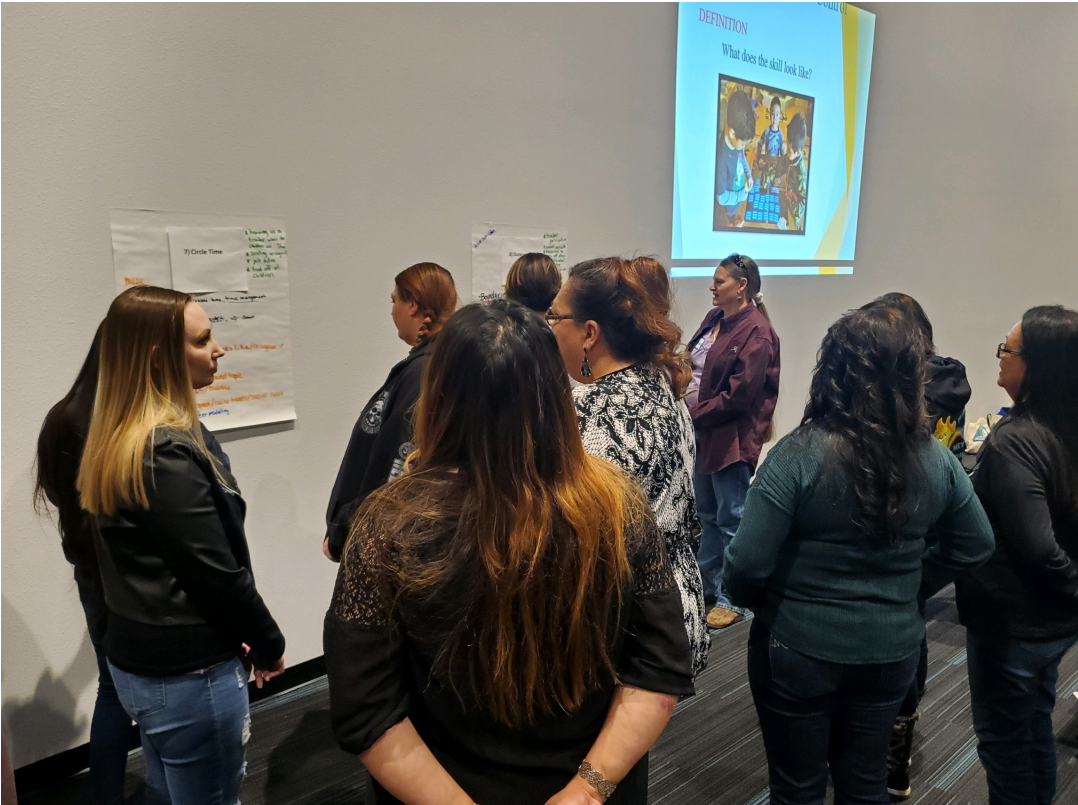
And Brenda Ortega, director of Luna’s education department, said presenters told her they loved the energy they encountered and were pleased with the venue and Luna’s

willingness to make the event happen. “For our first time ever, it was great,” she said.

The series of trainings — designed primarily for early childhood teachers and administrators but open to others in education, child care and social work — originated in November, when Ortega made contact with the UNM-based program.

Each of the three sessions focuses on a different aspect of early childhood education. “Mind In The Making” concentrated on ways to teach essential life skills to youngsters in the age range from

MORE: See Page 2



Early childhood teachers and administrators talk about different approaches to working with youngsters. Part two of the series of free workshops — focused on leadership — is scheduled for March 27-28, and part three — with emphasis on family engagement — will be in the fall.

Educators

Continued from Page 1

birth to 8 years old. These include focus, working memory, cognitive flexibility and inhibitory control.

Ortega said the training exposed participants to some fresh approaches, shifting away from the results-driven, test-heavy emphasis in the modern classroom toward more emphasis on the process of teaching and learning — and on making it fun.

“They learned techniques and fun ways to re-direct a child, like learning through play,” she said. “It’s structured play. The children have to learn, they have to discover, they have to explore.”

“Mind In The Making” drew approximately 50 participants from across the region, including both Las Vegas school districts, Santa Rosa,

Mora, Springer and Pecos. UNM Family Development Program offered the training free of charge and covered the cost of lunch. Luna was in charge of facilitating the event, providing the venue and organizational support plus morning and afternoon snacks.

Future sessions are planned, including one later in March. In addition to those who participated in February’s training, others involved in early childhood development are also invited to join in.

The next session, “Collaborative Leadership Institute,” is set for March 27-28 on campus.

“It’s teaching that everyone is a leader,” Ortega said. “We all have some leadership skills, even if it’s self-leading.”

Again, this session will be free, but participants should sign up by March 18 by e-mailing Tycie Jackson at

tjackson@luna.edu.

The third session will be planned for the fall and will focus on family partnership training.

“That’s about collaboration with parents,” Ortega said. “We’re trying to make sure families are always involved. They’re the first and most important educators of their children.”

“What we offer is not just an avenue to teaching — it is that, too — but much more, learning how children develop and how they learn.”

Ortega thanked the behind-the-scenes help of Luna employees, including the education department staff, the office of President Dr. Rolando Rael, the office of Vice President Kenneth Patterson, Matt Cordova and facilities crews, Matt Bowie and informational technology staff, the Office of Public Relations, and Francisco Apodaca.



Luna takes part in open government training

The office of state Attorney General Hector Balderas presented a training on the Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records Act on Feb. 28 at New Mexico Highlands University's Student Union Building. Luna Community College took advantage of the opportunity, sending more than a dozen employees as well as three members of the LCC Board of Trustees.

"We want to work toward an atmosphere of greater transparency," said Luna President Dr. Rolando Rael. "So we're glad Luna was well-represented at this particular training. Kudos to the attorney general's office for putting this together for our community. We all stand to benefit when government is open."

The OMA and IPRA are two key open-government laws in New Mexico. The Open Meetings Act sets

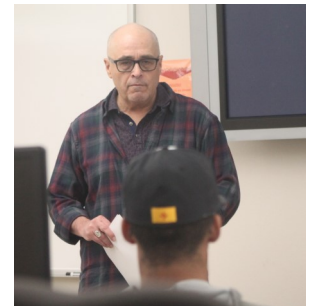
requirements for notification and conduct of all meetings of public governing bodies, including those of municipalities, colleges and school districts. The Inspection of Public Records Act enables any member of the public to access documents and other published material generated by public entities.

While the general principles of open government are fairly simple and easily understood, some of the specifics involved may not be so commonly known. That's where trainings like the Feb. 28 event may be especially beneficial.

Approximately 100 participants filled Highlands' SUB theater for the three-hour training, which included opportunity for audience questions.



Dolores Romo and Debbie Montañó from the Las Vegas office of New Mexico Workforce Connection listen to student stories during a recent class presentation. Romo and Montano shared advice to help students succeed in the job-search process. Below, instructor Rick Baca reviews the class with his students.



Ready for that job search?

Luna students gain insights from career professionals

Putting students on a pathway toward a rewarding career is one of the main goals at Luna Community College.

Helping them acquire job-search skills, then, is a natural objective, and some of that work was in evidence Wednesday, Feb. 19, in the classroom of Humanities instructor Rick Baca.

Students in Baca's HD 260 Capstone: Critical Thinking course

gained insights from three guest speakers – Carolyn Chavez from Luna's own human resources office, Debbie Montañó and Dolores Romo from the local New Mexico Workforce Connection office.

Chavez described her role as director of human resources and the functions of the office, which include administering payroll and benefits as well as managing job openings and searches. She then provided an overview of the job application process, with tips on applying for a job and following through with interviews.

Chavez advised students to make

sure they complete applications the first time and proofread anything submitted to a prospective employer. She also suggested they focus resumes and other materials to the specific job they are seeking.

"Present yourself as effectively and efficiently as possible," she said. "Disclose what pertains to that job."

Montañó and Baca followed, informing students about the array of services available through the New Mexico Workforce Connection – formerly known as "the unemployment office." The local office, one of many located in major towns and cities statewide, aims to be



Carolyn Chavez, the college's human resources director, discusses job application do's and don'ts.

“This was designed to expose students to opportunities as it relates to the workforce ... The capstone course has more to it, to get them thinking below the surface.”

Rick Baca
Humanities instructor, Luna Community College

a one-stop center designed to connect citizens looking for work with the employers – public, private, non-profit – looking to hire. Among the services offered are workshops on resume writing, job interviews and professionalism, as well as regularly updated listings of job openings.

“We want you guys to be prepared,” said Montañó, “and some are not prepared ... Go in (to the prospective employer) as prepared as you can be ... Research the job you are looking for.”

Crafting a concise, well-written resume that targets the specific job desired is one of the more important steps, they said.

“A lot of employers take seven seconds to look at your resume,” said Romo.

Montañó and Baca served up plenty of other advice -- avoiding

expressions of any negativity toward previous employers during the job interview, being mindful of increasingly common drug testing and background checks, and developing positive first impressions with professional dress and demeanor.

They noted that New Mexico Workforce Connection offers a financial assistance program that helps eligible participants pay for job-related training. And the office has worked with Luna's Adult Education department, offering incentives for high school equivalency completion.

While the class session focused on the job-search theme, it's but one component of the life skills taught in the Critical Thinking course, which is required of students in Luna's Humanities degree program.

“This was designed to expose

students to opportunities as it relates to the workforce,” Baca said. “The capstone course has more to it. It's to get them to thinking below the surface – helping them become better communicators and building life skills.”

Part of the course's approach is about incorporating technology whenever possible, “to make stuff relevant to them,” Baca said. Students are tasked with internet research, role playing and creating videos for potential job interview situations, for example. And bringing in guest speakers – as was the case Wednesday – also engages students, he said.

“(We want to) share with the student the resources available from the local experts,” Baca said.

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

Dental students showcase skills

Luna hosts open house for national Dental Assistants Recognition Week

All eight of Luna Community College dental assistant students highlighted what they have learned this school year during an open house Wednesday, March 4.

Several dozen Luna employees, students and community members attended the open house that ran throughout the day.

Among the areas of dental assisting featured were pre-recorded videos of students showing proper procedures of how to mix dental materials. Students also featured posterboards of effects that drugs have on the mouth. In addition, posters also had information on the effects of dental neglect. Other presentations were on the benefits of alternative medicines and the effects of alcohol.

Latricia Sanchez, a 2019 graduate of Mora High School, is expected to earn her dental assisting certificate this year.

“I really love this program,” said Sanchez. “I enjoy being here. I want to enter the dental assisting field and eventually become a

dental hygienist. There is a lot of diversity in this program. You can work directly with a dentist or surgery.”

Those who attended the events were also treated to sandwiches, chips, cake and bottled water.

“Our students worked really hard to prepare for this open house,” said Chantel Rivera, an instructor in dental assisting.

“There was a lot of preparing for this open house,” Sanchez agreed. “It helped us learn multitasking and organization.”

“I feel dental assistants should have as much recognition as students in other programs,” Rivera said. “We have to be very skilled and precise to work in this field.”

The American Dental Assistants Association designated March 1-7 as Dental Assistants Recognition week.

For more information on the Luna Dental Assisting Program, call Gloria Pacheco, program administrator, at 505-454-2528 or e-mail gpacheco@luna.edu.



Luna dental assisting students celebrate their day in the spotlight with a cake. From left: Latricia Sanchez, Naomi Gonzales, Jade Ulibarri, Jennifer Romero, Shyan Maddux, Briana Sanchez, Alec Vigil, Jesselle Gold.



As part of the open house, students prepared research projects to display on posterboards.



Dental assisting students demonstrate job skills in a video shown during the March 4 open house.

Reading with Dr. Seuss



Luna Community College's preschool and education department recently hosted "Reading with Dr. Seuss" activities. Rae Dawn Price, Michael Montoya, Vice President Dr. Kenneth Patterson and President Dr. Rolando Rael (clockwise from top left) were among the special guests who entertained the preschool children with stories.

The UNM Family Development Program

and
LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Present:

Collaborative Leadership Institute

Free Professional Development for Early Childhood
Educators and Administrators (Birth-Grade 3)

Event Details

Date: March 27-28, 2020

Time: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Location: LCC Media Arts Building

Each participant will receive: Lunch, Leadership Toolkit, CEU's
available

Registration is **FREE**

Deadline: March 18, 2020

To register: email Tycie Jackson @ tjackson@luna.edu
Include: name of school, name(s) of attendees, email, and
contact number.



*Please state in the email if you have food allergies



Rough Riders sweep Air Force JV

Wallace hits 200-win milestone; Gonzales No. 1 hitter in country

This past weekend (March 7-8) was especially sweet for Luna Community College softball.

The Rough Riders broke into the win column with a three-game sweep of Air Force's junior varsity over the weekend in Pecos, triumphing 15-5, 20-19 and 20-4. Game two saw a dramatic comeback as Samantha Fuentes scored the winning run off a Mary J. Martinez hit.

Head coach Steve Wallace recorded his 200th career victory, collecting a game ball to commemorate the occasion.

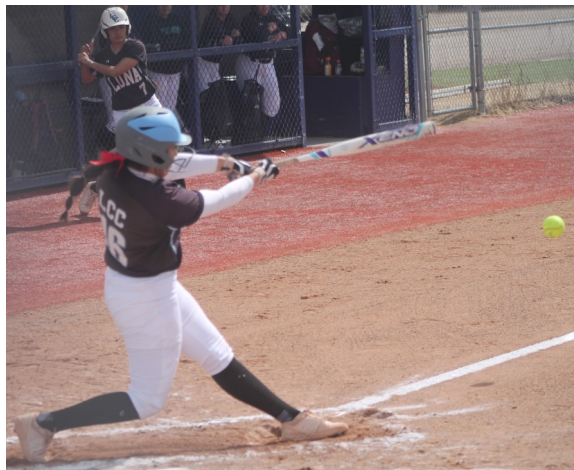
And sophomore shortstop Aiyana Gonzales (Albuquerque) smashed a grand slam and an additional home run on her way to claiming the top ranking in the nation in hitting. Gonzales' batting average of .647 is tops in the National Junior College Athletic Association.

The squad, which played at Langston (Okla.) on Tuesday, is slated to travel to Alamosa, Colo., for a game with the Adams State University junior varsity on Wednesday, March 18, before returning home to play Western Texas March 20-21.

The team (3-6 going into the Langston game) has done a solid job overcoming a lengthy stretch of weather-cancelled games, showing



Above: Luna's Mary J. Martinez slides safely into first against Trinidad State in the Rough Riders' home opener.



At left: Luna's Aiyana Gonzales drives the ball toward the gap. Gonzales leads the nation in batting average.

improvement in each of its doubleheaders since resuming the schedule on Feb. 28.

Fellow sophomores Olyvia Dominguez and Emilia Hawbaker join Gonzales as team RBI leaders; Dominguez and Dyani Cummings-Lani are hitting at or near .500. As a team the Rough Riders are hitting a respectable .356.

The past weekend was a tough

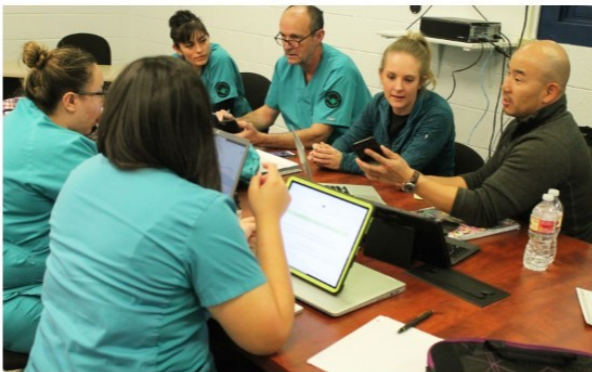
one for Luna baseball (7-16), as visiting Midland College broke the Rough Riders' win streak, prevailing 13-3, 15-7, 14-2 and 26-0 at the Albuquerque Regional Sports Complex.

It was the team's league opener.

The team is scheduled to play a four-game series at Odessa College this Friday and Saturday, March 13-14, at Wrangler Field in Odessa, Texas.

We help you take on the TEAS!

FREE workshops to help prepare you for the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) are now being offered at Luna Community College. Contact Yvonne Piña, ypina@luna.edu, or 505-454-2525, to sign up or to get more information.



**Free TEAS prep
workshops**

5-7 p.m.

Technology Building,
room 126-B

Starting
March 31!

Workshop schedule

WORKSHOP TOPIC	DATE
Pre-test & test strategies	March 31
Reading	April 2
Math	April 6
Anatomy & physiology	April 8
Life science	April 14
Post-test & skills review	April 16

**Take all six free workshops,
and we will pay your first TEAS fee!***

* All workshops and post-tests must be completed within same sequence in order to be eligible. Limit one free TEAS fee waiver per participant. Visit LCC Nursing Department for details.



NJCAA Region 5 meetings



At left, Luna President Dr. Rolando Rael visits with New Mexico Junior College President Dr. Kelvin Sharp at the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 5 meetings in Abilene, Texas. Rael, the 2019-20 conference president, is also pictured talking with and conference commissioner Lyndon Harding. Rael represented the college at the regional conference March 5-7.

MUSIC!  FOOD!  FUN!

Census Fest!

Wednesday, April 1 

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Café de Luna

Luna Community College



Learn how you can help your community thrive by taking part in the 2020 U.S. Census.

United States[®]
Census
2020



Luna closing for spring break

Luna Community College in Las Vegas and its campuses in Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer will be closed Thursday, March 12, and Friday, March 13, for spring break.

The college will resume its regular hours on Monday, March 16.

Join us for Luna Night in MORA

A public
meet & greet
March 25

WHAT: A public meet & greet with Luna Community College

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, followed by LCC Board of Trustees meeting at 6 p.m.

WHERE: Mora High School lecture hall

- Meet your new LCC Board of Trustees, including your District 3 representative, Dr. Phyllis Martinez, and Luna President Dr. Rolando Rael!
- Learn more about the college and its offerings as well as its commitment to Mora and the rest of District 3!
- Light refreshments to be served!



Rough Rider signings



Justice Dimas and Marquisa Montoya, West Las Vegas



Aryanna Jimenez, Rio Grande High School



Makayla Martinez, Belen High School

Look for more Rough Rider baseball and softball signing news in future issues of the Luna Light.