



Rings an honors grad in welding

Hands-on learning credited for growth, improvement

Jayson Rings learned about the Luna welding program in the summer of 2018 right before he moved to Las Vegas from Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is one of the best educational choices he has ever made.

“Throughout my tenure at Luna, I’ve had the honor of being instructed by Donnie Atkins, Gene Martinez and Lorenzo Lujan,” says Rings, who participated in the Luna graduation this past May. He graduated with a welding certificate with the honors of *summa cum laude*. “My welding classes were very informative and as well as being a very hands-on experience.”

Rings is just one of the dozens of Luna students who have earned an American Welding Society certification over the past few years.

His education at Luna helped him get his current job with the Los Alamos National Labs.

“I would recommend the Luna welding program to other students because it’s a great starting point for anyone wanting to get into the industry,” says Rings. “You learn the basics as well as safety procedures



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Jayson Rings
Class of '21 graduate

and are instructed proper use of the machines there at Luna. The thing about welding is the more you do it, the more you weld, the better you get at it.”

Rings is a natural when it comes to welding. “Jayson is dedicated to welding; he put the time and effort into it,” says Luna instructor Gene Martinez.

“I enjoy welding, because no two welds are ever really the same,” says Rings. “Each one has its own challenge and I enjoy that challenge.”

For now Rings says he is in the right place at the right time.

“I really haven’t thought that much into the future. For the time being, I am happy with where I am now,” says Rings.

Rings has simple advice to future students.

“Always strive to be better than who you were yesterday,” says Rings. “Attending Luna has been of the best ideas and one of the best investments I’ve made for myself.”



Building gardens of the future

Luna Career Technical Education Director Dr. John Thompson along with Pecos Jackson and Bobby Jackson work on a raised garden bed for Luna preschool kids. As part of the educational experience, Luna preschoolers will be learning the process of gardening. In the near future, Dr. Thompson will fill the garden beds with potting soil so the preschoolers can begin planting their flowers and vegetables.

STEM plans ‘Math On The Fly’ camp

Learning, fun promised in camp for middle school students

Middle-school students can get a boost in their math skills by taking part in the upcoming “Math On The Fly” summer camp at Luna Community College.

STEM Director Francisco Apodaca discussed the planned camp as part of the June 8 Board of Trustees meeting.

The camp is designed for area students entering grades six through eight. It will be held from 9 a.m. to noon July 27-29 and Aug. 3-5 on campus.

“Math is a part of our lives, from using a tape measure to figuring out how many miles of gas 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 info and other details will be provided within the month. A fee of \$100 per student has been discussed to defray costs of running the camp.

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.

Also at the June 8 meeting:

Acting President Morris Madrid reported that a \$748,000 amount remains from federal CARES funding. Also in his report, Madrid called for board input on an ICIP priority list for capital projects.

Staff Senate President Georgia Baca noted that a gathering for employees and their families is planned for late June. The senate has also completed work on bylaws review and revision, with the final product on the senate webpages.

Vice President Kenneth Patterson reports that summer enrollment is comparable to that of Summer ‘20.



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 for details, or call 505-454-2500 or 1-800-588-7232.



Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center @ Luna Community College



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.

Call 505-454-2517 for more information.

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.



Work out with us!



Rough Riders welcome new student-athletes

Luna softball coach Steve Wallace recently signed two more players to play for his Rough Riders next season. They are Cheyenne Gallegos out of Santa Fe High and Madelyn Johnson out of Royal High in Brookshire, Texas. Pictured from left are Gallegos, Madelyn Johnson, Johnson's parents Annette and Willie Johnson and Wallace. Gallegos, a utility player, intends to major in business, while Johnson, a pitcher, will major in criminal justice.

Hands-on learning is back

Luna welding student Isaiah Dominguez, a freshman from Las Vegas, preps a one-inch plate for overhead certification in an advanced fabrication class this summer. Dominguez, a 2021 Robertson High School graduate, is also planning to take automotive technology classes at Luan. One day, Dominguez would like to operate his own business. The Summer '21 semester runs through July 30; registration for Fall '21 remains open through Aug. 30.



Luna opens campuses

Luna Community College in Las Vegas and its campuses in Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer are open to the community.

Luna will follow the latest official guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New Mexico Higher Education Department.

Summer semester is currently under way, with classes having begun on June 7. While some classes are being taught via online delivery or distance learning modality, some are taking place on campus as well.

All Luna employees are also back on campus. In the fall, students will have more options for face-to-face classes, and online learning remains available.

All campus buildings will be open with temperature check areas, along with social distancing and masks required in all offices and public spaces on campus.

Luna is making well-informed choices for the well-being of our campus community and the public and will continue to closely monitor activities and developments related to the spread and management of coronavirus (COVID-19) in coordination with the CDC and the New Mexico Department of Public Health.

For more information, please call Luna's Human Resources office at 505-454-2503.

Lottery scholarship restored

The New Mexico Higher Education Department has announced that the New Mexico Lottery Scholarship will cover the full amount of tuition for eligible students at all public and tribal colleges and universities for the 2021-22 school year.

Due to increased lottery

ticket sales and a significant budget appropriation, this marks the first time the scholarship covers 100 percent of tuition since 2015.

The Lottery Scholarship will be funded at \$63.5 million for fiscal year 2022, over a 30 percent increase from last year's funding of \$43 million.



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 **ASAP**

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

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

Employee get-together June 25

Luna Community College employees and their families are invited to participate in a Luna Family Fun Day gathering on Friday, June 25.

The gathering, which will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. that day at a location to be announced, is being coordinated by

the Luna Staff Senate. Those interested in taking part are advised to RSVP by no later than June 18 to ss@luna.edu.

“It’s been a tough year, and we’re excited to get back to some normality,” states a flyer announcing the event.

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

Vaccination incentives announced

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Department of Health has announced a \$100 incentive for New Mexicans who complete their vaccination series or receive a single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccination through June 17.

New Mexicans with questions can dial 1-855-600-3453.

“New Mexico is so close to hitting our June 17th goal: 60 percent of New Mexicans 16 and over who have completed their vaccination series. We are excited to offer this additional incentive to get us over the finish line - and to reopen our state by July 1,” said DOH Cabinet Secretary Dr. Tracie Collins.

All New Mexicans who have received at least one shot are also eligible for the Vax 2 the Max sweepstakes, including a total of \$10 million in cash prizes and other awards. On June 18, New Mexico will conduct its first drawings — four prizes of \$250,000 each. New Mexicans who wish to participate can sign up at vax2themaxNM.org.

New Mexicans who have completed their vaccination series will be eligible for the grand prize drawing of \$5 million in early August.

Eligibility for the \$100 Incentive

Eligibility is limited to New Mexicans receiving a booster shot or the J&J shot from Monday, June 14, to Thursday, June 17.

To qualify for the \$100, New Mexicans must bring the following to their appointments:

New Mexicans must provide proof of residency (e.g. an identification card, pay stub or utility bill). Those who are receiving a second Pfizer or Moderna shot must provide a CDC vaccine card or other proof of vaccination that they have received a primary shot. New Mexicans can locate their vaccination records at vaxviewnm.org. New Mexicans will receive \$100 either on-site or at their home addresses.

For New Mexicans eligible to be vaccinated who are under 18 years old, a parent or guardian must be present to qualify for the \$100.

Recipients of the \$100 incentive are solely responsible for any taxes.

Source: New Mexico Department of Health

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.

Show in the sky



This photo of the edition was taken at around 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 3, 2021 outside the Luna Community College campus. Rain in Las Vegas, N.M. started shortly after.

Staff senate election under way

Voting is under way for the Luna Community College Staff Senate, with the deadline to submit votes 4 p.m. Friday, June 18.

All employees classified as Luna staff are eligible to vote via e-mail only. A vote may be cast only for a candidate within each voter's own staff membership group. Nominees from each of the staff classifications were

verified and included on a ballot distributed via campus e-mail on the morning of Friday, June 11.

The nominees include: Raymond Varela, Professionals; Lawrence Vigil, General Maintenance; Emily Ulibarri, Administrative Assistants and Office Managers; and Shannon Ortiz, Specialists, Technicians and Other.