

# Student senate leads Luna Cares drive



From left, Josh Montoya, Victoria Montoya, Angelica Montanez, Jessica Montoya, Rick Baca, Kimberly Baca and R.J. Baca gather boxes and bags of donations for delivery to The Samaritan House of Las Vegas.

Dozens of boxes and bags filled with clothing, non-perishable foods and personal hygiene items were a holiday gift to The Samaritan House from the Luna Community College student senate.

Student senate members delivered donations — which are being distributed to community members in need — on Thursday, Dec. 9. It was the conclusion of this year's Luna Cares drive, a service initiative of the

student senate. Since the beginning of November, the senate had been collecting donations via boxes placed in several campus buildings.

“The senate wants to put people first, and this is a big part of that,” said Angelica Montanez, president of the student senate, in a recent interview.

“We can only hope this will inspire greater participation in giving back to the community that we are in.”

## Spring session starts Jan. 18

Registration is now open for the Spring 2022 semester at Luna Community College.

Registration continues through the first week of the semester. (The campus will be closed Dec. 18 through Jan. 2.) Spring '22 classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 18.

The last day to add full-term courses is Tuesday, Jan. 25. However, early sign-up is highly encouraged. Eight week courses in certain programs are typically offered with registration available later in the semester.

For details and a list of available classes, please visit [LUNA.edu](http://LUNA.edu). Online registration is available to returning students; others should contact an adviser or the Student Success Center once admitted.

# Websites hail Luna quality, value



A pair of independent national websites have recently recognized Luna Community College in their most recent rankings of higher education institutions.

Intelligent.com ranked Luna's online associate degree in business administration No. 3 among all such programs reviewed for 2022. In addition to its national ranking for overall quality with a score of 96.25, Luna was found to be the most affordable among the 224 colleges reviewed by Intelligent.com.

The website also ranked Luna among the top 10 community colleges in New Mexico with a score of 86.98. The ranking additionally recognized Luna as being "Best for Early Childhood Education" among the schools reviewed.

Intelligent.com, based in Seattle, describes itself as a privately funded and editorially independent website. To calculate the scores used in its rankings, the Intelligent.com team said it evaluated each of them based on "reputation, cost, course strength and flexibility." Initial criteria were that

colleges were non-profit, accredited and offering flexible delivery of courses.

"Our picks are highly regarded, economical and equipped with the tools to teach their given degree," according to the site. "Luna Community College offers flexible distance learning that appeals to busy adults or hybrid models that include on-campus and online formats," stated a release from Intelligent.com. "Experts at Intelligent.com assessed programs that help students enhance and develop advanced skills for a variety of in-demand positions."

"Studies show that obtaining a degree increases income substantially, degree holders earning 84 percent more than those with only high school diplomas or those without a completed GED. The percentage difference in earnings continues to grow with higher learning degrees such as master's, doctoral or professional degrees, with the unemployment rate decreasing to as much as 1.1 percent for those with a doctorate."

Another site, University HQ, has also rated Luna among its Best

Associate Degrees in New Mexico, ranking the college in the top 20 of schools reviewed for 2022.

"New Mexico's community colleges are an invaluable part of the state's economy," the announcement from University HQ noted. "They provide two-year associate degrees in a variety of subjects that launch careers in fields such as health care, accounting, engineering and business. In fact, some of the best colleges in the state of New Mexico are community colleges."

Based in Scottsdale, Ariz., University HQ reported that it used data collected primarily from government agency sites, considering the factors of tuition cost, admission rate, retention rate, graduation rate, graduates' salaries, total programs offered, online programs offered, loan default rate, diplomas awarded and percentage of students receiving financial aid.

Luna is currently enrolling students for the Spring 2022 semester, which begins Jan. 18. Last day to register is Jan. 25. For more information, please visit [LUNA.edu](http://LUNA.edu).



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## **Register for Spring 2022**

ongoing through Jan. 25. Classes start Jan. 18. If you're a returning student, you can register online. Otherwise, visit [LUNA.edu](http://LUNA.edu) or our registrar's office on campus for assistance.

# Pecos students visit STEM



Pecos students listen to quick lessons about different disciplines in the sciences presented by Luna STEM Director Francisco Apodaca. The students visited the Luna campus on Dec. 3.



Pecos High School students who visited Luna's campus on Dec. 3 enjoyed a quick introduction to studies in the sciences and all the wonders of scientific exploration.

Luna STEM Director Francisco Apodaca led the tour and discussed

such topics as fossil formation (geology), chemical reactions (chemistry), programming of robots (robotics and computer science) and others. Students toured STEM classrooms and the new 3D printing lab, which will be available for use by Luna classes.

Recently, the STEM department also hosted students from Anton Chico Middle School as part of New Mexico MESA's Regional Roundup. Those students took part in an exercise that centered on binary coding in computer science. STEM faculty delivered instruction.

## Legislature to convene Jan. 18

Luna Community College and the rest of the state are gearing up for the new year — and with it another legislative session.

The 2022 session is set to open at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 18. As a 30-day session, it is devoted primarily to budgetary matters, although other types of legislation may be introduced.

Legislation may be pre-filed Jan. 4-14. Deadline to

introduce bills is Wednesday, Feb. 2.

The session ends at noon on Thursday, Feb. 17. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has until March 9 to act on bills passed by the legislature; those not acted upon are pocket-vetoed. In most cases, legislation passed and signed by the governor goes into effect on May 18.

Look for "Luna @ the Legislature" updates.



Once the New Mexico State Legislature gets under way for the 2022 session, regular weekly reports ("Luna @ the Legislature") will be made available to the campus community. The reports keep track of bills of particular interest to Luna and higher education in the state.

# Holiday treats for preschool children



Children at Luna Community College's preschool were treated to some early Christmas gifts on Friday, Dec. 10, courtesy of the Luna student senate.

Senate president Angelica Montanez and secretary-treasurer R.J. Baca, along with faculty adviser Kimberly Baca, represented the senate and delivered the wrapped gifts to each of the youngsters. They also brought hot chocolate for the children to enjoy.



# Game Room doubles as classroom

Instructor Lisa Bentson recently found a novel way to teach geometry concepts to her adult education students.

Bentson took her class on a detour to the newly reopened Rough Rider Game Room, where they learned about angles and related concepts by playing a game of pool. The group enjoyed a quick lesson from math teacher Carol Romero and network administrator Denise Gibson, competitive pool players as well as Luna employees.

For more information on the adult education program, please contact Bentson, 505-454-2564.



**Denise Gibson (above right) explains how variations in shooting angles can impact each shot on the pool table. The practical lesson in geometry was part of a detour taken by Lisa Bentson, instructor in the Career & College Readiness Institute and adult education program.**



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**Luna trustee Maximiliano Tenorio (third from left) gets a handshake from fellow board member Kenny Medina during the Dec. 14 board meeting. Tenorio, who represents District 4, did not run for re-election. Rosalie Ortega will represent District 4 starting in January.**



**NMHED Cabinet Secretary Stephanie Rodriguez provides a training for Luna trustees.**

## Trustees meet to conclude 2021

Stephanie Rodriguez, Secretary of the New Mexico Higher Education Department, conducted a training for the Luna Community College Board of Trustees as part of a busy Dec. 14 regular meeting.

The meeting, which is the last of the 2021 calendar year, was also the last for District 4 Trustee Maximiliano Tenorio. Tenorio, who opted against seeking re-election, will be succeeded by Rosalie Ortega in January.

In addition to approving negotiations for a financial aid consultant, the board formally accepted capital outlay funding for the new fiscal year. Among other reports, the board heard an update on establishment of the Luna Foundation and board. Trustees viewed two promotional videos recently produced by the college in conjunction with KOAT.



**Phillip Martinez, the new chairman of the Luna Community College Foundation Board, spoke briefly at the Dec. 14 trustees meeting. Martinez said he attended Luna in the 1980s and looks forward to serving the college.**



**Tycie Jackson, adviser in the early childhood education department, was recognized for earning her master's of science in education (with emphasis in educational diagnostics) from the University of the Southwest.**



**Above, Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez speaks with area officials and law enforcement officers about potential partnership and an advisory board.**

## Luna talks partnership with area law enforcement

Area law enforcement agencies including city, county and state along with local government representatives met on campus with Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez about partnership opportunities, as well as establishment of an advisory board.

The meeting took place Wednesday, Dec. 15, at the site of Luna's new state-of-the-art simulators in firearms training and driving.

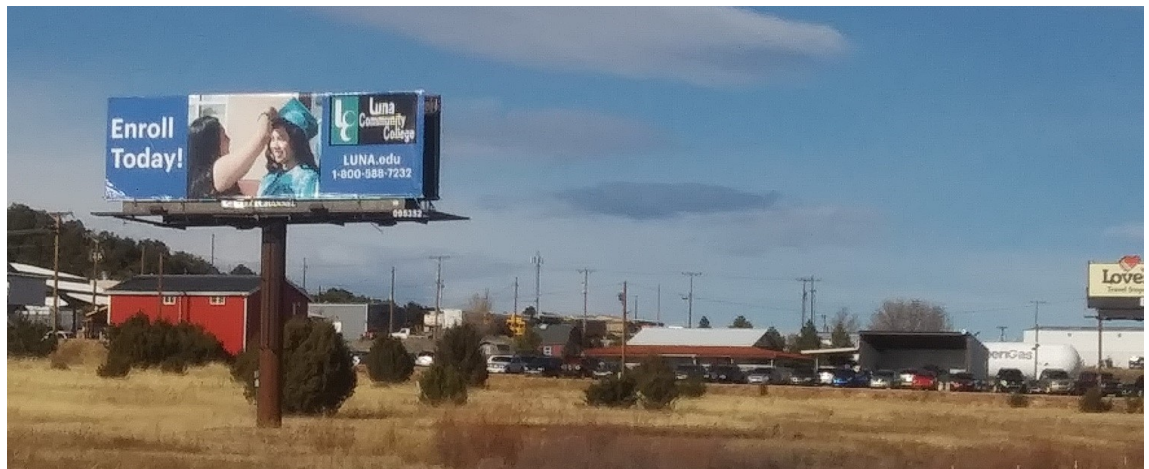
**MORE: See Page 9**



**At left, local law enforcement officers sample the VirTra, Inc.-manufactured simulator. The simulator features a 300-degree immersive and interactive environment programmed with a variety of potential situations in which officers commonly find themselves. The simulator enables the participant to develop decision-making skills and use of de-escalation techniques and use of varying degrees of force, including firearms.**

## Getting the word out

**As part of outreach efforts, Luna Community College recently invested in billboard advertising reminding potential students about spring registration. The billboard can be seen while traveling northbound on I-25 near mile marker 343. Spring registration is ongoing through Jan. 25.**





# Luna to close for winter break

Luna Community College in Las Vegas and its campus sites in Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer will be closed from Monday, Dec. 20, to Friday, Dec. 31, for winter break.

The college will resume its regular hours on Monday, Jan. 3. Spring '22 classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 18. The last day to add full-term courses is Tuesday, Jan. 25.



Among the individuals who attended the Dec. 15 partnership meeting were, from left, Luna interim Vice President of Instruction and Student Services Dr. Dani Day, Guadalupe County Commissioner Albert Campos, Mora County Commissioner Veronica Serna, Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez, San Miguel County Commissioner Harold Garcia, and Fourth Judicial District Attorney Tom Clayton.

## Partnership

Continued from Page 8

The college this past year acquired the simulators, manufactured by VirTra, Inc.

President Martinez discussed the advisory board and a partnership that involves area entities using the VirTra simulators, designed primarily to significantly improve critical judgments, skills and expertise for law enforcement personnel.

Among those in attendance were law enforcement officers, county commissioners from San Miguel, Mora and Guadalupe counties, Las Vegas Mayor Louie Trujillo and Fourth Judicial District Attorney Tom Clayton.

Trujillo thanked Martinez for having the foresight to bring entities together, calling it “a perfect example of collaboration.”

Clayton also voiced support for the initiative, saying, “Smaller agencies need to have training.”



## Luna employees enjoy staff senate's holiday potluck



Join our team and help us serve our communities!

# Employment opportunities

## Positions available at Luna Community College

### FULL-TIME

- Student success specialist ... opened Dec. 13
- Business, lead instructor ... opened Dec. 10
- Education, lead instructor ... opened Dec. 10
- Head softball coach ... opened Dec. 9
- Executive administrative assistant to the president ... opened Dec. 7
- Administrative assistant II, Education and Business ... opened Dec. 7
- Allied Health Sciences: Dental assisting instructor ... opened Nov. 16
- General maintenance I ... opened Nov. 11
- Academic and career planning director ...

opened Nov. 3

- CTE: Commercial drivers license program administrator ... opened Nov. 3
- Registrar ... opened Oct. 29
- Technical electrician ... opened July 14

### TEMPORARY PART-TIME

- CTE: Auto collision repair lab assistant, hourly (INTERNAL POSTING) ... opened Dec. 6
- ACE tutors (4) ... opened Aug. 16
- Preschool substitute teacher/caretaker ... opened June 29

### ADJUNCT (per course)

- CTE: Furniture & cabinet making instructor ... opened Nov. 15

- CTE: Welding instructor, Springer ... opened Oct. 25
- CTE: Furniture & cabinet making instructor, Santa Rosa ... opened Oct. 25
- CTE: Furniture & cabinet making instructor, Springer ... opened Oct. 25
- CTE: Welding instructor ... opened Oct. 25
- CTE: Commercial drivers license theory instructor ... opened Aug. 26
- CTE: Commercial drivers license driving instructor ... opened Aug. 26
- CTE: Auto technology instructor, Springer ... opened Aug. 26
- CTE: Auto technology instructor ... opened Aug. 26
- CTE: Auto collision repair instructor ... opened Aug. 26

Most recent postings listed first. All positions open until filled unless otherwise noted. For more information on each position, please log on to [www.luna.edu/jobs](http://www.luna.edu/jobs).



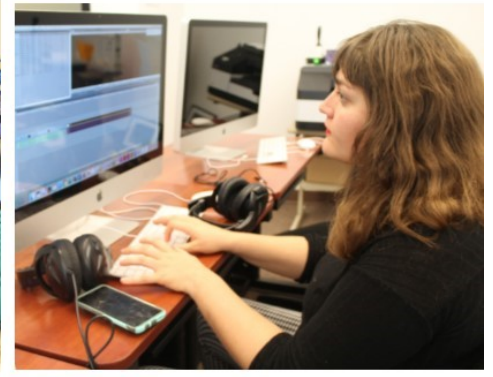
### College Scorecard:

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).



# Time for a career change?



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more.