

# Spring semester off to a promising start



**Student Services' Alicia Chacon assists students with the registration process. The Spring '22 semester got under way on Jan. 18, closing full-term enrollment on Jan. 25. Enrollment in select short-term courses is open later into the semester.**

Luna Community College welcomed students back to school for the Spring 2022 semester with the start of full-term classes on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

The late registration period for full-term courses concluded on Tuesday, Jan. 25.

Additional courses — short-term classes that start later in the semester — will remain open to enrollment as needed.

For more information, please see LUNA.edu or visit the registrar's office in the Student Services Building.



**Students in the dental assisting program begin class work on the first week of the Spring '22 semester.**

## Student resources now more accessible

Welcome back to school, Luna students!

You may notice a few changes on campus as the semester begins.

Advisement is now being offered in a centralized location — the Student Services Building — to better meet student needs.

Additionally, the Academic Center for Excellence has been relocated to the second floor of the Student Services Building and is now adjacent to the Veterans Resource Center. This change is designed to make access to tutoring and study space more convenient.

Your department directors are Dr. Carol Linder (Allied Health), Brenda Ortega (Business and Education), Francisco Apodaca (Humanities and STEM), Maxine Hughes (Nursing) and Dr. John Thompson (CTE).

# Ortiz returns to teaching at Luna



**Veteran Luna Community College instructor Robert Ortiz is excited to bring back furniture and cabinet making classes to Luna. Ortiz is expected to start teaching his class March 21 through May 13.**

Robert Ortiz will be teaching furniture and cabinet making at Luna for the third time in his career. Ortiz is determined to make it his best.

“So many students have been asking me in town when I was coming back to Luna and teach,” said Ortiz. “I came up here to Luna interested in taking a class in furniture and cabinet making myself and saw the shop was closed. After talking to Dr. John Thompson (CTE director), he asked me if I was

## *Furniture & cabinet making instructor commits to students ‘150 percent’*

interested to teach it again and I said ‘yes.’”

Ortiz will teach his furniture and cabinet making class as an eight-week course beginning on March 21. Thompson said that a similar course

will be taught at the Springer satellite, also beginning March 21. An instructor is being recruited to teach the same class at the Santa Rosa satellite.

Ortiz started teaching at Luna in 1981 and retired 25 years later. He returned to teach part-time for six years but has not taught furniture and cabinet making since 2015.

“With my certifications, I can teach furniture and cabinet making

**MORE: See Page 3**

## Ortiz

Continued from Page 2

anywhere in America,” said Ortiz. “My intention is to concentrate on safety instruction for the first two weeks of the course. Safety is a priority. After that, we will start working on projects.”

Before his class begins, Ortiz has to make everything safe and complete.

“I won’t feel right if someone got hurt,” said Ortiz. “Once we get the safety instruction done, we will start with the cabinets and furniture.”

Ortiz, who is 74, said he had a heart attack in 2018, but he said he is full of energy and feels better than ever.

“I am so happy to be coming back, and I am happy for the students,” said Ortiz. “What you buy at the store is standard; what our students will make will be customized.

Some students may start with a picture frame, and some may build an entertainment center. I am happy to start building this program back. I think this will be good for the students and for the college.”

Ortiz said that giving 100 percent in class is not enough for him.

“I intend to give it 150 percent for the students,” said Ortiz. “Not only will I teach the students, but I will help the students. I ask the students to give me a sketch of what they want, and then we go from there.

Ortiz said this could be his last hurrah in teaching.

“I enjoyed my time here at Luna,” says Ortiz. “It wasn’t a job for me, because I enjoyed it so much. I missed teaching a lot, and I was sad to hear that no one was teaching cabinet and furniture classes. My hope is to teach one or two semesters and train someone to take it over. God willing, I can do well for the students.”

**“I am happy to start building this program back.”**

**Robert Ortiz**  
Furniture & cabinet making instructor,  
Luna Community College

## Rough Riders open season on the road

**S**now and ice may still be part of the equation in Las Vegas and elsewhere, but it’s nonetheless time for baseball and softball seasons to begin at Luna Community College.

The Rough Riders baseball team dropped four games to Eastern

Arizona College 6-1, 1-0, 1-0 and 2-1 over the weekend in Thatcher, Ariz.

The team, led by head coach T.C. Nusser and assistant Harry Estep, will travel to El Paso, Texas, for a series the following weekend, Feb. 4-5, at El Paso Community College.

Luna’s softball team, now under the direction of coach Randall Krutsch, is preparing for its season opener. The Rough Riders are slated to play in a tournament in Odessa, Texas, starting Feb. 10.

Krutsch takes over as head coach by succeeding Steve Wallace, under whom he served as assistant coach in 2021.

Both teams are looking to make progress after playing last season with rosters loaded with young freshmen.

The baseball squad was competitive in conference play, going 12-18 and 13-25 overall. The campaign ended in a Region 9 playoff series at McCook (Neb.).

The softball team lost to Northeastern (Neb.) and Western Nebraska in the double-elimination postseason tourney held in Trinidad, Colo. That brought a close to a one-win season for a club that had just a couple of sophomores in the rotation.



**Luna softball team is under the direction of Randall Krutsch.**

# Luna to host COVID vax clinic Feb. 10

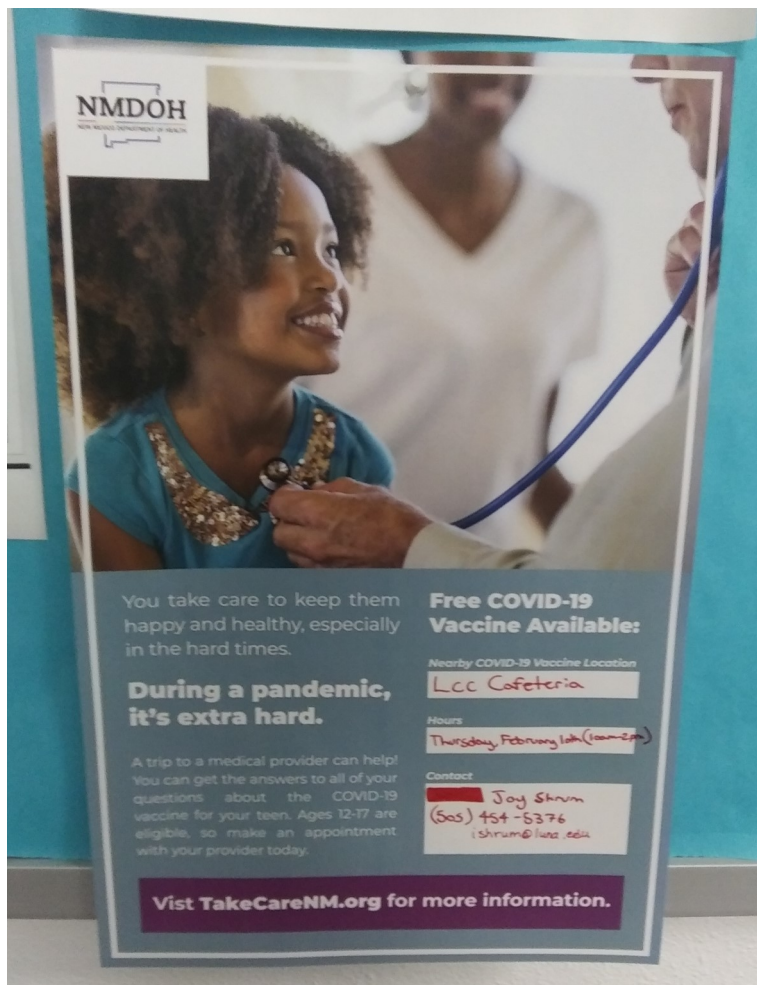
In collaboration with the New Mexico Department of Health and El Centro Family Health Clinic, Luna Community College will be hosting a COVID-19 vaccination clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10, in the school's cafeteria.

"We will open it up to everyone," said Luna nursing instructor Joy Shrum. "Anyone who is eligible to receive a primary, secondary or booster can come to our clinic."

Shrum said eight of her nursing students will administer the vaccinations.

"It is a good opportunity for students to help out the community, and it's good for Luna to promote the vaccinations," said Shrum. "We must try to make sure that people are protected against COVID-19. We will provide information about the vaccinations at the clinic."

Shrum said that although the clinic is open for four hours, they would stay open past 2 p.m. if necessary. The Higher Education Department and the NMDOH have applauded Luna nursing students for their assistance in helping administer vaccinations. Luna nursing students have taken part in several vaccination clinics over the last two years.



## Luna providing Covid tests for students, employees

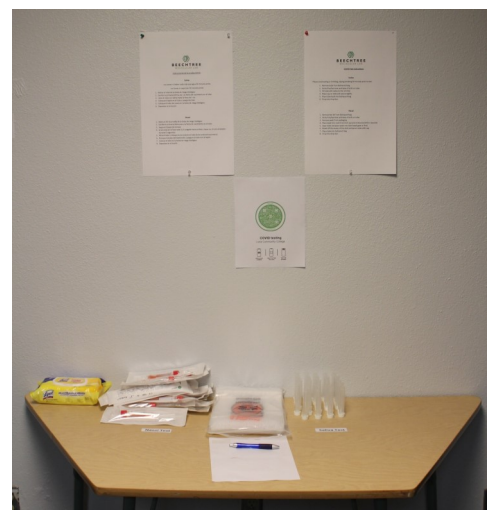
Luna Community College has teamed up with BeechTree Diagnostics to offer Covid tests for Luna Community College students and employees. The site is located in the Maria H. Paiz Administration Building, next to the reception desk in the mirrored office.

The procedures are as follows.

- Scan the QR code that is posted on site to register.
- Select the test that you wish to take (nasal or saliva).
- Follow the easy steps posted.

For more information, please call Life and Safety Supervisor Matt Griego at 505-429-1159 or via email at [mgriego@luna.edu](mailto:mgriego@luna.edu).

**Luna is offering free Covid tests for Luna students and employees. Test kits can be picked up at the Maria H. Paiz Administration Building.**



# Opportunity Scholarship Act introduced

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Friday (Jan. 21) announced legislation designed to expand the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship, delivering tuition-free higher education “to every New Mexican who wishes to pursue higher education.”

Senate Bill 140, sponsored by Sen. Liz Stefanics and Rep. Joy Garratt, the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship Act would appropriate \$85.5 million from the state general fund and allow for up to an estimated 35,000 New Mexicans to attend in-state public colleges and universities tuition-free. The act also would combine four existing state scholarship funds into a single fund, enabling institutions to award one full scholarship to cover full tuition and fees for eligible students.

The Opportunity Scholarship would cover full tuition and fees for New Mexicans of any age pursuing certificate, associate and bachelor’s degrees either part-time or full-time at any New Mexico public or tribal college or university. To qualify, students must be New Mexico residents and maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher while enrolled in college.

According to the New Mexico Higher Education Department, more than 18,000 students benefitted from the Opportunity and Lottery scholarships in Fall 2021, with unmet need reported for more than 15,500 students.

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Luna Community College is



**Luna cosmetology instructor Germaine Sandoval and her students take advantage of a recent day of unseasonably warm temperatures by having a class session in the courtyard on campus.**

seeking legislative support for some new educational and service initiatives as well as equipment upgrades and replacement.

Among the projects for which Luna is seeking funding:

A new traveling lab for Allied Health Sciences that would provide education and training in rural communities.

Renovation and upgrades of classroom lab and conference room space and technology in the college’s computer center and Information Technology areas.

Replacement and upgrades of equipment used in the dental assisting program.

Renovation and expansion of the STEM department’s lab space and other facilities.

Creation of a STEAM makerspace that would be offered to the community, including space, equipment and materials.

Completion of the multipurpose Santa Rosa educational facility.

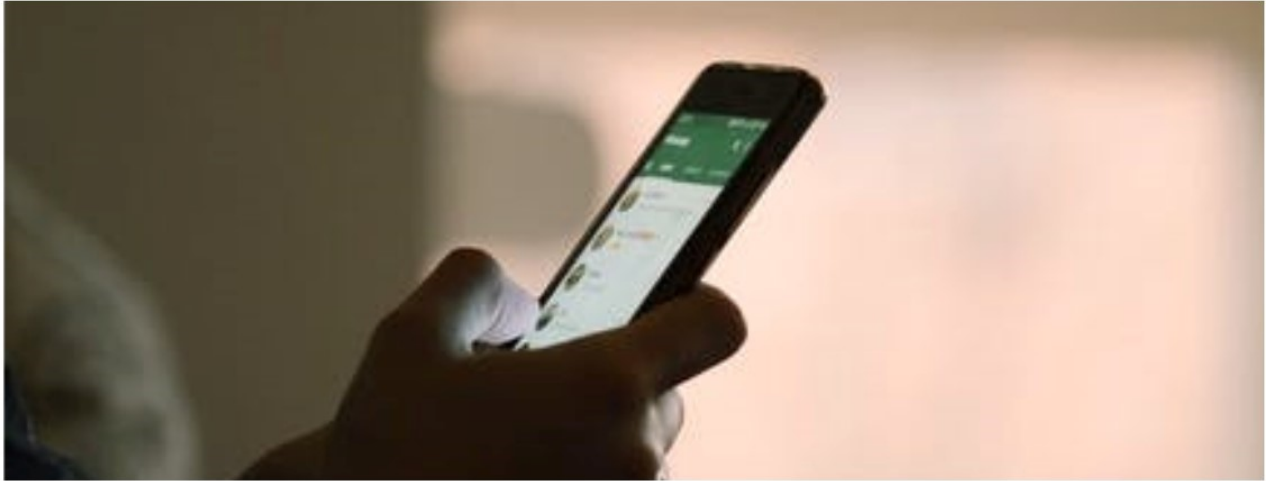
Replacement and upgrades of several vehicles.

Luna has already worked with the state Higher Education Department to secure allocations via Research and Public Service Projects funds. These include funding for athletics and the nursing program, among other items.

Deadline to introduce bills is Wednesday, Feb. 2.

Look for “Luna @ the Legislature” updates provided by the Office of Public Relations.

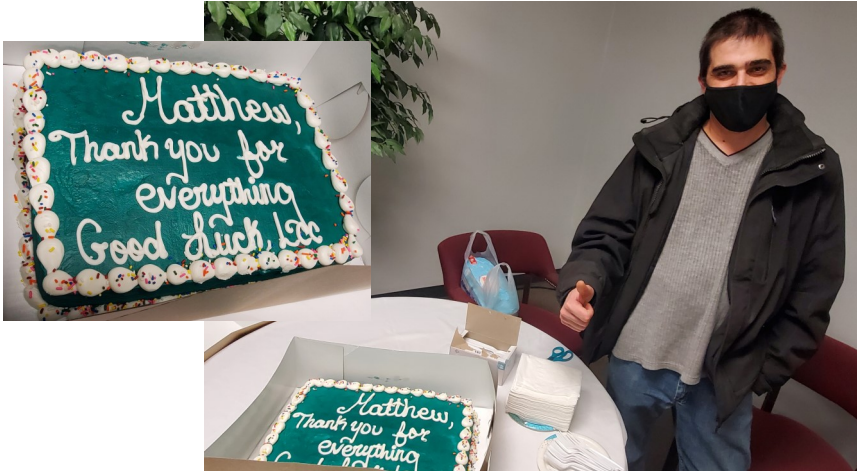
# Stay connected this school year!



**Luna RAVE alerts** notify subscribers — via text message — about campus closures or delays due to inclement weather as well as other urgent matters.

To sign up for RAVE, visit the Students tab at [luna.edu](http://luna.edu). There is no additional charge for this service. Standard messaging rates apply. Opt out at any time by texting STOP to 226787.





## A tasty tribute

Luna's Information Technology Department led a tribute to outgoing senior programmer Matthew Bowie on Friday afternoon. Bowie concludes his time at Luna after more than 20 years of work, said Greg Salazar, department director. "He has built many of our systems, resolved countless IT problems and has garnered the respect of everyone who works with or near a computer at our institution. He is an incredible resource and has always worked to get the job done."

# COVID guidelines adjusted for spring

Luna Community College continues to monitor COVID-19 numbers, and the college is adjusting its protocols accordingly to begin the spring semester.

As has been the case, Luna advises students, employees and visitors to practice social distancing and respiratory etiquette, wear face masks in all buildings and classrooms, wash hands regularly, and self-assess for symptoms prior to entering the campus.

New this semester, those who test positive for COVID (regardless of vaccination status) are asked to stay home for at least five days. Those who have no symptoms after five days may leave home but should use masks for another five days. Those who have fever should stay home until the fever is gone for 24 hours. No additional PCR test is needed if at-home rapid test is positive. To prevent spread of COVID, those who test positive are asked to inform anyone with whom they have had recent contact. Those

close contacts should get tested, monitor for symptoms and reduce exposure to others.

For anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID, guidelines differ depending on vaccination status. They are as follows:

- \* Those who are up to date on all COVID vaccines for which they are eligible should wear masks consistently around others for 10 days, testing on Day 5 if possible. Those who develop symptoms should get tested and stay home until results are available. Those who cannot get tested but have symptoms should assume they are positive and follow appropriate protocols.

- \* Those who are unvaccinated, not fully vaccinated or vaccinated without a booster (i.e. not up to date on all vaccinations for which they are eligible), should stay at home for five days, then wear a mask around others for another five days. They should test on Day 5 if possible.

Those who develop symptoms should get tested and stay home until results are available. Those who cannot get tested but have symptoms should assume they are positive and follow appropriate protocols.

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should get either an at-home rapid test or PCR test if possible and stay at home until results are known. Those who test positive are advised to follow guidelines for positive test results. Those who test negative but still have symptoms are advised to stay home and get tested if possible in one to two days. Those who are unable to be tested but still have symptoms should assume they are positive and follow guidelines for positive test results.

Employees who are not vaccinated should continue to test weekly and provide test results to the Office of Life Safety at Luna. A self-testing site is located at the Maria H. Administration Building.

Join our team and help us serve our communities!

# Employment opportunities

## Positions available at Luna Community College

### FULL-TIME

- Admissions counselor ... opened Dec. 17
- Rough Rider Community manager ... opened Dec. 17
- Student success specialist (2) ... opened Dec. 13
- Business, lead instructor ... opened Dec. 10
- Executive administrative assistant to the president ... opened Dec. 7
- Allied Health Sciences: Dental assisting instructor ... opened Nov. 16
- Academic and career planning director ... opened Nov. 3
- Custodian I ... opened Sept. 21

### PART-TIME

- Custodian I , Santa Rosa ... opened Jan. 13

### TEMPORARY PART-TIME

- CTE: Welding student lab assistant, hourly ... opened Jan. 21
- CTE: Auto collision repair lab assistant, hourly (INTERNAL POSTING) ... opened Dec. 6
- ACE tutors (5) ... opened Jan. 24
- Preschool substitute teacher/caretaker ... opened June 29

### ADJUNCT (per course)

- Allied Health Sciences: Dental assisting instructor ... opened Dec. 6
- 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).





## Salute to service

Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez presents Sheryl Yara (left) and Evelyn Montoya with appreciation plaques recognizing their dedication and service to Luna Community College. Yara and Montoya have announced their retirements. Yara is the executive assistant to the president, and Montoya is the executive administrative assistant to the vice president of finance. Martinez commended the efforts both have provided to Luna and its students in their years at the college.



# TEAS

## Nursing school entrance exam

# February 2022 dates

**Scheduling for the following dates is taking place now.**

**Tuesday, Feb. 15**

**9 a.m.**

**Contact: Yvonne Piña**

**Thursday, Feb. 17**

**1:30 p.m.**

**505-454-2525**

**Tuesday, Feb. 22**

**1:30 p.m.**

**ypina@luna.edu**

**Friday, Feb. 25**

**9 a.m.**

Please provide student ID number, phone number, and exam date in the e-mail.

You have up to three attempts per academic year to pass the exam; the fee for each attempt is \$65.

You're advised to set up an account with ATI prior to the exam date; go to [atitesting.com](http://atitesting.com),

click on Create Account. Use LCC ADN for institution, with estimated graduation date of 5/11/2024.

# Luna @ the Legislature

Jan. 27, 2022

The 55th Legislature's second regular session began on Jan. 18 and concludes on Feb. 17. Legislation not acted upon by the governor as of March 9 is pocket-vetoed. Legislation — other than general appropriation or bills carrying emergency clauses or other specified dates — goes into effect May 18.

Luna @ The Legislature, an initiative of the Luna Community College Office of Public Relations, provides a weekly update on the session to inform the campus community.

Legislation of particular interest to Luna Community College, filed as of publication:

**House Bill 2** General Appropriations Act. Funds government operations, including \$1.01 billion from general fund, \$16.8 million from other state funds, \$43.1 million from internal service/interagency transfers, and \$10.5 million from federal funds to the higher education department for fiscal year 2023; introduced by Patricia Lundstrom. Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee.

**HB 58** Creates adult online learner scholarship program for higher education; introduced by Joshua Hernandez. Currently in House Education Committee.

**HB 73** Allows certain educational retirees to return to work without suspension of benefits; introduced by Joy Garratt. Amended version currently in House Labor, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee.

**HB 98** General Appropriations Act, original filing. Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee. See HB 2 above.

**HB 105** Allows public employees to return to work for affiliated public employers under certain conditions; introduced by William Rehm, Rachel Black, Phelps Anderson, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Dayan Hochman-Vigil. Currently in House Labor, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee.

**HB 107** General Appropriation Act of 2022, funding amounts proposed include \$10,517,000 total for Luna Community College — \$7.3 million for instruction and general, \$1.87 million for other, \$483,800 for retention and completion, \$251,000 for nursing expansion, \$150,000 for Rough Rider student support services. Introduced by Nathan Small, Candie Sweetser and Patricia Lundstrom.

Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee. See SB 157.

**HB 137** Requires public contracts provide for increased contractor and subcontractor wages in accordance with state minimum wage increases; introduced by Rebecca Dow and Miguel Garcia. Currently in House Rules Committee.

**HB 143** General Creates five-year innovation accelerator pilot project for businesses, with centers at certain community colleges; introduced by Linda Serrato. Currently in House Commerce & Economic Development Committee.

**HB 153** General Obligation Bonds, provides for potential funding of projects including academic libraries statewide and \$1.5 million for heating, ventilation and air conditioning at Luna Community College, with bond election to go before voters in November 2022. Introduced by Christine Chandler. Currently in House Taxation & Revenue Committee.

(156 House bills introduced to date)

**Senate Bill 1** Increases starting salaries for licensed public school teachers — \$50,000 for Level 1, \$60,000 Level 2, \$70,000 Level 3; introduced by Mimi Stewart and Debra Sariñana. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

**SB 7** Sets minimum wage for state employees and employees of state contractors at \$15 an hour; introduced by Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Peter Wirth, Linda Lopez. Currently in Senate Health & Public Affairs Committee. See alternate bill, SB 125.

**SB 25** Creates a research grants closing fund and competitive process for higher educational institutions; introduced by William Soules. Currently in Senate Committees Committee.

**SB 36** Increases certain contributions to educational retirement fund; introduced by Mimi Stewart. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

**SB 50** Funds expansion of nursing programs at public post-secondary institutions; introduced by Liz Stefanics. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

**SB 51** Creates public works commission to annually hear proposals on capital outlay-funded project; introduced by Bill Tallman. Currently in Senate Committees Committee.

**SB 56** Provides for financial aid for nursing students and loan repayment assistance for nurses in advanced practice; introduced by Liz Stefanics. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

**SB 114** Changes stipulations within the state procurement code; introduced by Bill Tallman. Currently in Senate Committees Committee.

**SB 124** Changes eligibility requirements for the legislative lottery tuition scholarship and specifies summer session eligibility; introduced by George Muñoz, Mimi Stewart. Currently in Senate Committees Committee.

**SB 125** Sets minimum wage for state employees at \$15 an hour; introduced by George Muñoz, Michael Padilla. Currently in Senate Health & Public Affairs Committee. See alternate bill, SB 7.

**SB 131** Creates an educational loan-for-service program in career technical education; introduced by Cliff Pirtle. Currently in Senate Committees Committee.

**SB 132** Increases minimum salary for licensed educational assistants who meet eligibility requirements to \$20,000 a year; introduced by Mimi Stewart. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

**SB 140** Opportunity Scholarship Act. Appropriates \$85.5 million from general fund to establish Opportunity Scholarship to be awarded to qualified, eligible students covering up to 100 percent of tuition and fees after other state aid has been applied; introduced by Liz Stefanics, Joy Garratt. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

**SB 146** Authorizes state agencies or local public bodies to join existing cooperative procurement agreements; introduced by Pete Campos. Currently in Senate Committees Committee.

**SB 154** General Appropriation Act of 2022, funding amounts proposed include \$10,517,000 total for Luna Community College. Introduced by George Muñoz. Currently in Senate Finance Committee. See HB 107.

**SB 172** Allows certain educational retirees to return to work without suspension of retirement benefits; introduced by George Munoz. Currently in Senate Committees Committee.

(177 Senate bills introduced to date)

# Stay connected this school year!



**Luna campus e-mail** is the primary way the college notifies its students (and employees) about key information. Anything ranging from schedule changes to special event information to job opportunities to campus news is shared via LCC e-mail.

To sign up for a free Luna e-mail account, go to [luna.edu/createStudentAccount](http://luna.edu/createStudentAccount). If help setting up the account is required, call Larry Paiz, 505-454-5361.



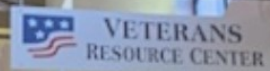


**Stop by the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) to get help in your classes!**

We have tutors throughout the day to assist you in any subject area you may need. Visit us at Student Services Building 204 (upstairs).

We also offer online tutoring if needed; just e-mail a tutor to set something up.

Contact Ray Varela at 505-454-5306 or [rvarela@luna.edu](mailto:rvarela@luna.edu) if you have any questions.



Tutor	Subject	Email	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
Sergio	English, History, Sociology, Psychology	<a href="mailto:shartshorne@luna.edu">shartshorne@luna.edu</a>	8-11 a.m.	5-8 p.m.	8 a.m.-1 p.m.	8-10 a.m., 2-4 p.m.	8-11 a.m.
Mary Frances	Math, Science, English	<a href="mailto:mbibb@luna.edu">mbibb@luna.edu</a>	5-8 p.m.	8 a.m.-noon	8-10 a.m.	9-11 a.m., 3-5 p.m.	11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Madison	English, Criminal Justice, Sociology, Psychology	<a href="mailto:mgould@luna.edu">mgould@luna.edu</a>	2-6 p.m.	11 a.m.-6 p.m.	2-6 p.m.	5-8 p.m.	
Theo	Science, English, History	<a href="mailto:tcurry@luna.edu">tcurry@luna.edu</a>	Noon-5 p.m.	4-8 p.m.	5-8 p.m.	4-8 p.m.	
Amber	Criminal Justice, Sociology, English, entry-level Math	<a href="mailto:amgonzales@luna.edu">amgonzales@luna.edu</a>	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	1-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	11 a.m.-3 p.m.	
Brittney	Math, Science, A&P	<a href="mailto:bmares@luna.edu">bmares@luna.edu</a>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

All tutors can be reached via e-mail to set online appointments (Google meet or Zoom).

