

Luna readies for progress this spring

Student resources being situated for smoother experience

Luna Community College President Dr. Edward Martinez expressed gratitude to faculty and staff for their ongoing efforts on behalf of students during a campuswide message Wednesday, Jan. 12.

“I want to thank everyone for their hard work not only this past semester but since we’ve come back from break,” he told the more than 70 employees who attended the online gathering.

The message came as part of a weeklong in-service training for employees as they prepared for the Spring 2022 semester. Full-term classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 18, following the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

President Martinez provided updates on a variety of topics, including enrollment, reorganization of several departments, plans to offer food options on campus, legislative requests, and efforts to promote the Luna brand.

Reorganization is being undertaken in part to create a more efficient structure that will provide better service, accessibility and convenience to students.

In addition to consolidation of some departments’ administrative teams, the



Students Dominic Lucero and Jacob Limas register for classes on Thursday, Jan. 13. Both are freshmen from Las Cruces; Lucero is majoring in criminal justice while Limas is majoring in general science. Spring classes begin Jan.18; last day to register is Jan. 25.

reorganization looks to locate student resource offices in the student services building for a “one-stop shop” concept. Student advisors, the Academic Center for Excellence and the Veterans Resource Center are all relocating to the building, joining other offices — Admissions, Registrar, Financial Aid, Student Success — that are already housed in that facility.

Campus security’s Matt Griego updated employees on the latest COVID-19 plans and measures being taken to ensure health and safety. (See related story on Page 7 for details.)

MORE: See Page 3

Spring session begins Jan. 18

With the Spring 2022 semester at Luna Community College just days away, there is still time to sign up for classes.

Spring ‘22 classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 18. Registration continues through the first week of the semester.

The last day to add full-term courses is Tuesday, Jan. 25.

However, early sign-up is highly encouraged. Short-term 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. Online registration is available to returning students; others should contact an adviser or the Student Success Center once admitted.



**Make
2022**

**THE
YEAR**

FOR YOU



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 or our registrar's office on campus for assistance.

Continued from Page 1

Vice President Dr. Dani Day led off the online forum with discussion of the upcoming focused site visit by the Higher Learning Commission. That visit will take place Jan. 24-25 with a focus on Criterion 5. A more comprehensive HLC visit is tentatively set for April 2023.

“In a way it’s good that we’re getting to do this now,” Day said. “In a sense, what we’re getting the opportunity to do is take the pre-test so we know what we’re getting on the final exam.”

Instructor Sherry Goodyear helped coordinate the weeklong in-service training, which included department and Shared Governance committee meetings, syllabi revisions, trainings on use of Blackboard and Google in various classroom settings, and other orientation discussions.



Luna freshman Celina Silva (right) completes her admission file with admissions specialist Martin Garcia. First-year students can apply online at LUNA.edu under the Apply Now link and contact the Admissions office, 505-454-2550, admissions@luna.edu, or in person to complete the admissions process.

Luna seeks funding for projects

As the 2022 New Mexico State Legislature gets under way, Luna Community College is seeking legislative support for some new educational and service initiatives as well as equipment upgrades and replacement.

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.

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

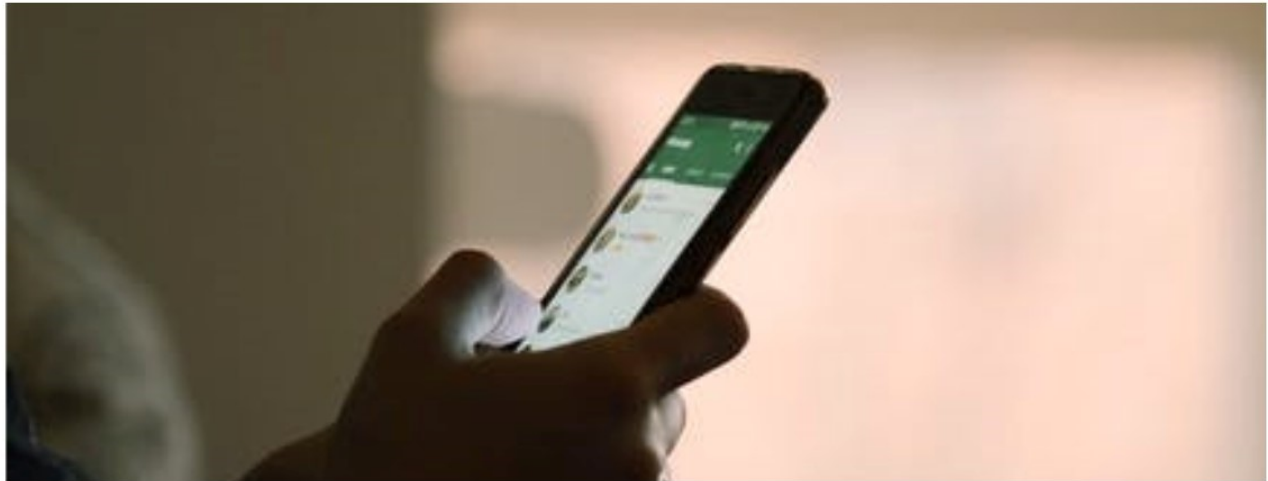
Department to secure allocations via Research and Public Service Projects funds. These include funding for athletics and the nursing program, among other items.

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 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. There is no additional charge for this service. Standard messaging rates apply. Opt out at any time by texting STOP to 226787.



Trustees take office



City of Las Vegas Municipal Judge Eddie Trujillo swears in recently elected Luna Community College Board of Trustees at a regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Pictured are Mark Dominguez, who represents District 2; Rosalie Ortega, who represents District 4; Louise Portillos, who represents District 6; and Dr. Gilbert Sena, who represents District 7.

Luna to close for MLK day

Luna Community College in Las Vegas and its campus locations in Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The college will resume its regular hours on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Spring 2022 registration continues through the end of the day Tuesday, Jan. 25. Full-term classes begin on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

For more information on registration, including a list of available classes, please visit LUNA.edu.



Make 2022
**THE
YEAR**

FOR YOU



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 or our registrar's office on campus for assistance.

COVID guidelines adjusted for spring

Luna Community College continues to monitor COVID-19 numbers in the area and the state, and the college is adjusting its protocols to follow CDC and state guidelines to begin the Spring 2022 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.

Those 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 will be made available at a later date.



Back to school

Luna student John Marquez (right), accompanied by his wife Martina, talks with student services counselor/ advisor Cynthia Branch. Branch is one of several Luna employees who advise students from offices located in the Student Services Building. Spring classes begin Jan.18; last day to register is Jan. 25.

Join our team and help us serve our communities!

Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

FULL-TIME

- Head softball coach ... opened Jan. 7
- Nursing, student success coach (INTERNAL POSTING) ... opened Jan. 7
- Admissions counselor ... opened Dec. 17
- Rough Rider Community manager ... opened Dec. 17
- Humanities, lead instructor (INTERNAL POSTING) ... opened Dec. 17
- Student success specialist (2) ... opened Dec. 13
- Business, lead instructor ... opened Dec. 10
- Education, 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
- CTE: Commercial drivers license program administrator ... opened Nov. 3
- Registrar ... opened Oct. 29
- Custodian I ... opened Sept. 21

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



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

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.

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. If help setting up the account is required, call Larry Paiz, 505-454-5361.



Gov calls for \$85.5M college package

Submitted to the Luna Light

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's executive budget recommendation for higher education in FY23 includes sweeping expansions for programs benefitting New Mexicans seeking college degrees and career training in key industries throughout the state.

Expanding upon the widespread success of the New Mexico Opportunity and Lottery scholarships, the proposed budget invests \$85.5 million for a comprehensive free college package that will help more than 35,000 New Mexicans pursue college degrees and career training certificates. The state awarded more than 18,000 scholarships through the programs this fall.

"Now is the time for universal free college because every New Mexican deserves the opportunity to reach higher and pursue the education for career training that will make a difference in the wellbeing of families, communities and our entire state," Higher Education Secretary Stephanie Rodriguez said. "Together with Gov. Lujan Grisham, we are removing barriers and for 1 percent of the state's overall budget, we are delivering a free college package that serves the diverse needs of New Mexicans, be they part-time students, working parents, returning adult learners, or recent high school graduates."

The governor's budget also

includes a fund transfer for key programs helping teachers enter and remain in the profession in New Mexico. The administration will invest \$5 million toward the Teacher Loan Repayment Program to provide debt relief for working teachers in high-need areas, and an additional \$5 million for the Teacher Preparation Affordability Scholarship to support college Students completing teacher training programs. The programs helped nearly 3,000 current and future teachers last year.

The HED awarded all funding expansion requests for nursing programs across the state, providing \$11.4 million for nursing education at colleges and universities statewide and \$216,000 to support the nursing program at Navajo Technical University. The recommendation also includes \$3.8 million for the department's Medical, Nursing and Allied Health Loan for Service Programs and the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program.

In partnership with the Economic Development Department, the administration seeks \$50 million for the creation of a media academy to train and transition New Mexicans to work in the film and media industry. The academy will partner with existing film education programs at New Mexico colleges and universities and provide advanced training and paid internships for at least 1,000 students a year.

A proposal of \$9 million, an overall increase of \$2.5 million, is recommended for the state's adult education programs that prepare New Mexicans to earn a high school equivalency credential, gain basic skills, learn English as a second language, and participate in career training or transition into college. Adult literacy programs across the state would receive \$750,000.

A total of \$10 million is recommended for the Dual Credit Program to help high school students earn both high school and college credit for taking college courses. More than 18,000 New Mexico high school students participated in the program last year, which waives the cost of tuition and fees for participants. Students enrolled in the Dual Credit Program are twice as likely to graduate from college on time and maintain a higher college grade point average.

As part of the Governor's Food Farm and Hunger Initiative under the Department of Finance and Administration, \$1 million will go toward student hunger relief on college and university campuses. According to a recent University of New Mexico report, as many as one in three college students faces food insecurity during their college career.

Another \$7.5 million is proposed to continue development of a state longitudinal data system

MORE: See Page 11

Continued from Page 10

that will incorporate databases across education and workforce agencies to inform data-driven policies for improving outcomes for New Mexicans from birth to career. Additionally, \$15.2 million is recommended for a shared services project supporting the improvement of student data systems and services at community colleges and \$1.7 million for cybersecurity insurance and security assessments at public higher education institutions across the state.

The state's Higher Education Endowment Fund would receive \$5 million to enhance research and establish endowed chairs aimed at enhancing high-need areas of study at public colleges and universities in New Mexico. An additional \$151 million is recommended for existing research and public service projects

and state agencies housed at higher education institutions benefitting students and communities across the state. Included in the recommendation is support for the Institute of American Indian Education at the University of New Mexico to provide culturally relevant teacher training.

Another \$1 million is recommended for the creation of a Center of Excellence for Early Childhood Education and Care at Western New Mexico University and a Center of Excellence for Social Work, Mental and Behavioral Health at New Mexico Highlands University. New Mexico's existing Centers of Excellence would receive \$2 million in sustained funding to continue economic development and education initiatives in cybersecurity, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and bioscience.

The executive recommendation includes an additional \$12.7 million in new operational funds to be distributed to New Mexico public colleges and universities via the state higher education funding formula and a 4 percent compensation increase for higher education employees.

More than \$200 million is included in the executive recommendation to replace older buildings and to fund facility and infrastructure improvement projects statewide, with an additional \$17.4 million included to address building renewal and replacement needs at college and university campuses across the state.

Higher education funding accounts for 12 percent of the state's \$8.4 billion budget.

Source: Stephanie J. Montoya, NMHED

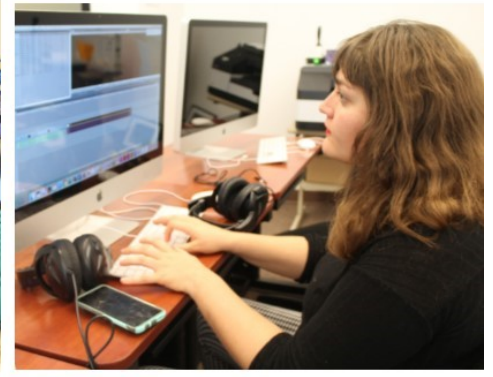
Winter Fest features fun from AHEC



Montanas del Norte Area Health Education Center Director Raymond Sanchez and former director Elaine Luna host a cornhole booth at the Winter Festival at the West Las Vegas High School gym in late December. Sanchez also gave out Luna promotional items.



Time for a career change?



Join us and build a
STRONGER
FUTURE.



Register for Spring 2022
now through Jan. 25. Classes start
Jan. 18. Visit us at LUNA.edu to learn
more.