



## The latest news from Luna Community College

Second Volume 3, Issue 23

Dec. 18, 2020



The Luna Community College Student Senate donated several boxes of essential items to the Samaritan House on Thursday morning. Pictured (l-r) are Student Senator Alisson Hill, Student Senate Advisor Kimberly Baca, Samaritan House Executive Director George Lyon, Samaritan House Administrative Assistant Ashley Armijo, Student Senate President Mario Romero and Samaritan House Clerical Assistant Frances Dimas.

## Student Senate leads drive to benefit community

Members of the Luna Community College Student Senate helped lead an initiative — dubbed “Luna Cares” — to donate essential items for use by community members in need this holiday season.

The initiative joins forces between Luna and the Samaritan House of Las Vegas, the non-profit organization.

Among items donated were winter clothing, non-perishable food, hygiene bags, and sanitizers. The donations were delivered to the Samaritan

House Thursday morning.

“It’s greatly appreciated,” said Samaritan House Executive Director George Lyon. “Luna’s efforts will help fill a need that is great in our community.”

Several boxes were set up at the Maria H. Paiz Administration Building and at the front gate.

“I want to thank everyone who donated items and assisted in this project,” said Luna Student Senate President Mario Romero. “It’s good to help out and give back to the community.”

# School of Business remains accredited

The Accreditation Council for Business Schools & Programs has reaffirmed accreditation for the Luna Community College School of Business. ACBSP on Dec. 8



notified the school and the institution of the continuation of the accreditation status.

Luna offers a fully online program leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree in Business Administration.

“Luna Community College is proud to provide this high-quality offering to students and the workforce, both in northeastern New Mexico, as well as remotely through an online mode of delivery,” said interim President Dr. Kenneth Patterson.

“Great job, Lita (Bernal), Melissa (Cordova), and Vanessa (Velasquez), as well as the School of Business faculty and other institutional and community personnel who worked to make this happen. We’re looking forward to the future of Luna’s School of Business!”

Patterson noted that the business administration associate degree has been recognized as No. 2 in the nation by the website Intelligent.com.



**Luna Community College provides quality instruction at a great value, something recognized by a new web site rating.**  
*(Luna file photo)*



## Luna recognized by site for affordability, value

Over the years, Luna Community College has endeavored to make its academic and vocational programs not only exceptional but affordable. Now comes new recognition from a national website.

Best Value Schools, accessible online at [bestvalueschools.org](http://bestvalueschools.org), has named Luna to its list of Top 25 Cheapest Community Colleges and awarded the college its Most Affordable badge. Along with a host of other resources, the site offers the list “to help you get the degree that you want, without having to break the bank (or drown in student debt for the next two decades).”

As the list documents, Luna’s tuition rates start at just \$40 a credit hour and are among the most affordable in the nation. “LCC is the only community college in northeast New Mexico and offers area

students a great education at a price that makes sense,” the site reports. “With a low faculty-to-student ratio and an excellent reputation for learning that students can apply to their professional lives immediately, Luna Community College is a great choice for students in the Southwest. Luna offers approximately three dozen associate degree and certificate programs in Allied Health Sciences, Business, Career and Technical Education (Vocations), Early Childhood Education, Humanities, Nursing and STEM. Financial aid is available...”

“To develop this list, we compared tuition cost among accredited universities and colleges and also considered the student-to-teacher ratio as a tiebreaker when other factors made it tough to distinguish between schools,” said

Cassie Williams of Better Value Schools.

Previously, Luna’s value and affordability has been recognized in other independent websites covering higher educational institutions across the country. In fall 2018, OnlineU ranked Luna’s online associate degree program in business administration as No. 1 in the nation in terms of affordability. This past year, Intelligent.com rated that program No. 2 overall and No. 1 in affordability.

Luna is currently enrolling students for the Spring 2021 semester, which begins Tuesday, Jan. 19.

Last day to register is Tuesday, Jan. 26.

For more information, please visit [luna.edu](http://luna.edu) or call 505-454-2500 or 1-800-588-7232.

# Blood drive a success

## Luna students assist in collection efforts

A number of Luna Community College nursing students and members of the college's Student Nurses Association helped conduct a local blood drive on Thursday, Dec. 3.

The Luna contingent supported the Vitalant blood donor event, held for a four-hour period at the Abe Montoya Recreation Center in Las Vegas. Organizers said the event was a success, with all appointments for blood donation filled well in advance and several walk-ins also accepted.

Several Luna SNA members also donated blood themselves.

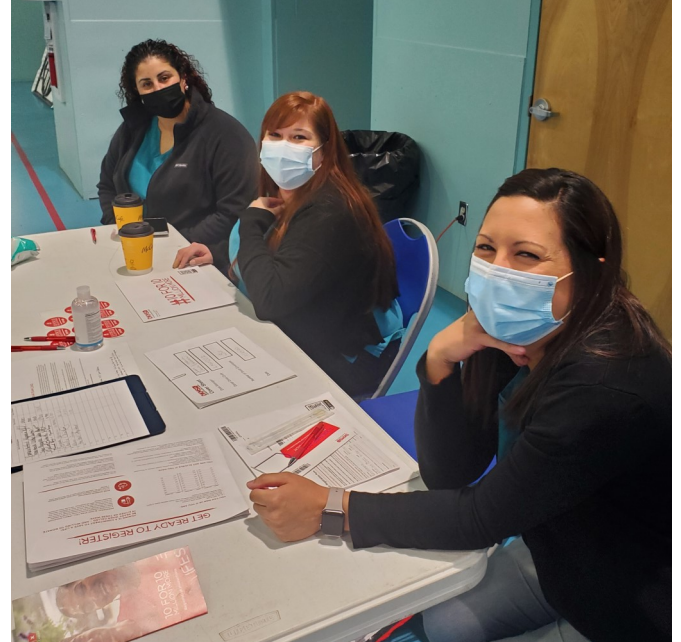
"I am proud of the SNA members and all of their efforts," said Kimberly Sena, a Luna nursing instructor and advisor to the club. "We would like to thank the SNA and community members who donated blood. Blood banks are facing unprecedented shortages in this pandemic, so donations from the drive will help a lot of people. We are extremely grateful for not only meeting our donor goals but surpassing them."

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**Luna's Amanda Baca donates blood in Vitalant's donor event on Dec. 3 at the Abe Montoya Recreation Center in Las Vegas. At right, Luna's Alexis Lucero and Miranda Esquibel sit in the waiting area.**





## Blood drive

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The goals were to collect 17 whole-blood donations and four double-red cell donations, Sena noted. The event ended up collecting 28 whole-blood donations and four-double reds.

The students supported Vitalant’s on-site staff by promoting the event, then welcoming and signing in donors. They also helped lead a drive to register potential donors for a DKMS bone marrow and stem cell registry.

Participants included Nicole Abeyta, Myranda Aragon, Amanda Baca, MaRian Brotherton, Donika Chavez, Miranda Esquibel, Naomi Gunn, Elizabeth Herrera, Amy Howell, Alexis Lucero, Destiny Martinez, Josiah Martinez, Marissa Martinez, Joleen Mascarenas, Jaklynn Ortega and Gemenia Wofford.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Vitalant has instituted some enhanced safety measures for these events. Check-in now includes a temperature check. Donors and staff are required to wear face masks. Social distancing is used in waiting areas, and appointments are encouraged. Staff sanitizes all high-touch areas often and after every collection, according to the organization. In addition, blood and platelet donations are tested for COVID-19 antibodies, with donors being informed of results. Vitalant is also coordinating donation of convalescent plasma from those who have previously tested positive for and recovered from COVID-19 to help those actively fighting the virus.

The next scheduled Vitalant blood drive in Las Vegas is Jan. 22, also at the Abe Montoya Rec Center.

**Above left: Luna’s Donika Chavez offers snacks and water to blood donors while Vitalant coordinator Heidi Chase keeps the mood light.**

**Above right: Luna’s Nicole Abeyta, Myranda Aragon and Naomi Gunn promote registration for stem cell and bone marrow donations.**

“Blood banks are facing unprecedented shortages in this pandemic, so donations from the drive will help a lot of people ...”

**Kimberly Sena**  
LCC instructor, SNA advisor

# Dr. Gilbert Sena appointed as trustee

In filling its District 7 vacancy, the Luna Community College Board of Trustees selected a longtime former employee of the institution.

Dr. Gilbert Sena was appointed to the board at a special BOT meeting Tuesday, Dec. 15. Sena served as interim president of the college in 2006-07. Prior to that, he worked as an instructor and later as dean of academic affairs and student services.

Sena himself was an alumnus of the college and earned a certificate in clerical office studies in 1975. In his interview with the board, he noted that he, his wife and children had all benefitted from Luna's educational and vocational services.

"It's a real honor to go back to Luna," he said. "It's an honor to provide an opportunity more specifically to my constituents in District 7 and everyone within Luna's service area. I am committed to working with the other board members."

BOT Chairwoman Dr. Phyllis Martinez, who made the motion to appoint Sena, praised all four finalists for the vacancy, but she said Sena was the best choice going forward.

"I think there can be no argument as to who is the most qualified," Martinez said, "first of



all because of his service to education and to Luna Community College. I feel confident he'll continue the trajectory this board has begun..."

Sena was appointed on a 3-2 vote; he succeeds Maxine Salas as the District 7 representative. Salas resigned in October; she was elected in November 2019 and took office this past January.

Sena, who runs a cattle ranch, was born and raised in Gonzales Ranch and now lives in Chapelle.

• • •

Trustees also heard from interim President Dr. Kenneth Patterson, who reported on Luna's legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

The top three priorities, determined in conjunction with a statewide community college consortium, include full restoration of federal funds (up to \$133,700), maintaining state funding levels, and full funding of the dual-credit system.

# Sign up for spring

Spring 2021 registration is now under way at Luna Community College.

Early enrollment began on Nov. 16 and will continue through the end of the day Tuesday, Jan. 26.

Classes begin on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

In order to help ensure the health and safety of everyone in the campus community, the college will continue to offer most of its classes via online instruction. A limited number of classes will include on-site instruction but will include protocols to help ensure health and safety. Registration — along with other student services and programs — will be conducted remotely.

Students are invited to visit [luna.edu](http://luna.edu) and click on the "How To Register" links for more information and instructions. An updated schedule of classes is also available at [luna.edu](http://luna.edu).

Luna offers certificate and associate degree programs in allied health sciences, business, career and technical education, early childhood and teacher education, humanities, nursing and STEM.

Tuition rates, starting at \$40 per credit hour, are among the lowest in the country.



Luna Community College is developing a law enforcement training center that will include simulators to be used in firearms and driving instruction. Above and facing page, photographs from the VirTra website demonstrate use of a firearms training simulator.

(Photos courtesy of VIRTRA)

# Simulators to aid law enforcement, others

Luna developing state-of-the-art training center on campus

Luna Community College is one step closer to opening a law enforcement training center, as the Luna Board of Trustees on Dec. 8 approved the requisition for purchase of a firearms training system and a driving simulator.

The law enforcement training center, which could be ready for students to take classes as early as the beginning of the second eight-week schedule in the spring semester, will be under the umbrella of the LCC Criminal Justice program. Luna's research shows that the law enforcement community is looking for smarter and more inexpensive ways of conducting state-mandated training.

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# Simulators

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“The built-in certifications for each simulator (are) nationally certified, with 36 states being articulated, and four of the states are required to have this type of training,” said Luna’s Lita Bernal, who will oversee the training center. “New Mexico is one of those states which recognizes the curriculum of each training scenario.”

Luna plans to submit the provided curriculum to the state Department of Public Safety. The articulation will then allow Luna to issue national certification to the law enforcement community for specified training.

The simulators offer a multitude of different courses and trainings. Depending on the needs of the law enforcement community, the firearms simulator can have one officer train at a time or an entire SWAT team train within one scenario. Class sizes will vary for each of the scenarios that will be offered.

“The current needs of the state’s law enforcement (are) advancing and mutating into new paradigms of thought and action,” said Bernal. “The new community policing is here due to recent developments of COVID-19 and events leading up to protests being nationally televised.”

Criminal Justice program faculty will be doing a lot of the recruiting.

“The faculty will first target the law enforcement agencies throughout the state,” said Bernal.



“Current needs of the state’s law enforcement are advancing and mutating into new paradigms of thought and action”

...

**Lita Bernal**  
LCC School of Business director

According to Bernal, in conjunction to recruiting within law enforcement, classes will also be available to dual-credit high school students with the assistance of their respective high counselors using

media such as Zoom. To assist with the recruitment efforts, a live stream will be placed on Luna’s website for anyone who has interest to stream into live action of both simulators.

Bernal said short-term goals are to provide the best training opportunities for law enforcement agencies within the college’s training scope. One long-term goal is to revolutionize training for law enforcement.

According to Bernal, the driving simulator approved by the Luna BOT is the newest and latest in state-of-the-art technology; Luna will be the first in the region to have this simulator.

“It does not get better than this,” said Bernal.

Luna will provide the public with information as the law enforcement training center develops.

# Meet your ACE tutors

Luna Community College Academic Center for Excellence tutors are available to help students with various classes and subjects.

Luna students may contact ACE coordinator Ray Varela at 505-454-5306 or rvarela@luna.edu to set up appointments or ask any questions

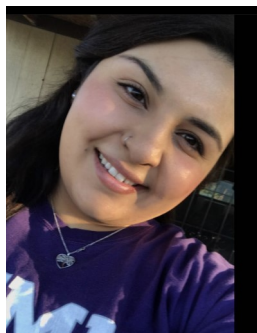
about ACE.

Here is a behind-the-scenes look at a couple of our ACE team members (fourth in a series):



## Luna Light PERSONALITY PROFILE

**ACE TUTOR:** Amber Gonzales  
**HOMETOWN:** Watrous, N.M.  
**SUBJECT(S):** Criminal justice  
**OTHER JOBS:** None  
**EDUCATION:** Robertson High School, Luna Community College, New Mexico Highlands



### What motivates you to tutor?

My motivation was mostly to help students, especially students who are pursuing their degree or career in criminal justice. It is a rewarding and interesting job. I feel that as a tutor I can make a positive difference for students who seek help in preparation for exams and assignments. By far, I have enjoyed working with every student I have been able to help.

**Whom do you admire the most and why?** My sister, because of her accomplishments and her fierce determination to overcome challenges . . . My family has shown us that education is the most important thing in life, and no one will ever take that away from you. With all the stress, challenges and late nights, it will be all worth it in the end!

**What is something about you that would surprise most people?** I am definitely a big gambler.

**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "The Great Gatsby"  
**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "King of Queens," "The Walking Dead"  
**FAVORITE FOOD:** Mac and cheese with Spam  
**FAVORITE SPORT:** Volleyball  
**FAVORITE HOBBY:** Watching football — Go Patriots!  
**FAVORITE SONG:** "Lean On" by Major Lazer  
**FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST:** Foster the People  
**FAVORITE THING ABOUT LUNA AND/OR VEGAS:** Favorite thing about Luna would definitely be the interaction you get with your peers and the faculty. My time as a student here, I have met different students outside of Las Vegas and have gained many friendships along the way.



## Luna Light PERSONALITY PROFILE

**ACE TUTOR:** Adan R. Martinez  
**HOMETOWN:** Las Vegas, N.M.  
**SUBJECT(S):** Trig, Calc, Stats, Gen Chem  
**OTHER JOBS:** Professional chile roaster, cashier at Lowes  
**EDUCATION:** New Mexico School for the Arts, UNM, Luna Community College



### What motivates you to tutor students?

Everyone has to teach themselves how to learn, but not everyone uses and understands material the same way.

**Whom do you admire the most and why?** Morgan Freeman; penguins didn't exist before he narrated "March of the Penguins."

**What is something about you that would surprise most people?** I end up talking a lot, which isn't surprising when you get a good look at me, but you can never expect what random nonsense I have to share. Also I absolutely love space.

**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "Grand Budapest Hotel," "ParaNorman," "Blade Runner"

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "Breaking Bad," "Adventure Time," "Avatar The Last Airbender"

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Tostadas, tacos, burritos, Japanese Kitchen

**FAVORITE SPORT:** Nah, thanks, I'm good

**FAVORITE HOBBY:** Drawing, editing, homework

**FAVORITE SONG:** "When I Was Done Dying" by Dan Deacon, "Nightmares" by Easy Life, "I'm Gone" by Oliver Tree, "Volver A Comenzar" by Café Tacv

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT LUNA AND/OR VEGAS:** I think Luna Community College is a great institution for gaining support and confidence into whatever you put your heart into. Good people, better tutors.




## Looking forward to spring



Emily Ulibarri, office manager at Luna's Santa Rosa satellite, is ready to distribute spring semester schedules. Luna begins its spring semester on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
**COVID-19 HOTLINE**  
**1-855-600-3453**  
Available 24/7



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](mailto:jgallegos@luna.edu), and Dave Kavanaugh, [dkavanaugh@luna.edu](mailto:dkavanaugh@luna.edu).*

To: Geraldine, Amber, & Alicia



**Thank You**

For your work on the Fall 2020 Final Grades. From all the LCC advisors!!



# Rough up the virus!

- Mask up to protect yourself and others
- Keep your distance — at least 6 feet
- Avoid in-person gatherings
- Limit trips and travel
- Use your phone and computer to stay in touch with family and friends
- Wash your hands frequently
- Disinfect high-use surfaces

**Let's beat this thing together, Rough Rider Nation.**



# Interested in a trade?

## Luna continues to provide vocational training while staying mindful of COVID safety

If you are interested in a career that requires training in auto mechanics, collision repair, welding, barbering, cosmetology, or a commercial driver's license, Luna Community College can provide you what you're looking for – in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The college has instituted protocols to help ensure health and safety for students, instructors and the rest of the campus community. But while those measures are ongoing, Luna also remains committed to delivering quality instruction, including vocational training that typically takes place in a traditional, on-site setting.

“Whether you hear them called trades courses, vocational courses, or career and technologies courses, the courses offered in the CTE Department all lead to the same goal – a job,” said Dr. John Thompson, department director.

Luna's Department of Career and Technical Education (formerly known as Vocational Education) is offering certificate programs in automotive technology, collision repair technology, barbering, cosmetology, welding and a certification program for commercial driver's license, in addition to courses in quilting. The department also offers an associate degree program in vocational studies.

Registration for the Spring 2021 semester is under way now through Tuesday, Jan. 26. The first day of classes is Tuesday, Jan. 19. Visit [luna.edu](http://luna.edu) or call 505-454-2500 or 1-800-588-7232 for more information.

**AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY:** The program ensures safety by conducting classes online unless otherwise noted. Students must have good WiFi connectivity.

**AUTO COLLISION REPAIR TECHNOLOGY:** All classes are being held on campus, but the college will limit class sizes to allow for social distancing, requiring use of personal protective equipment such as face masks and will conduct temperature testing at the entrance.



*(Luna file photos)*

Instructor approval is required, and students must be enrolled for credit.

**BARBERING:** A combination of distance learning and online instruction will be used by this program. Students must have good WiFi connectivity and appropriate equipment and supplies as specified.

**COSMETOLOGY:** A combination of distance learning and online instruction will be used by this program. Students must have good WiFi connectivity and appropriate equipment and supplies as specified.

**WELDING:** Welding instruction will be delivered on campus, with the college limiting class sizes to allow for social distancing and requiring personal protective equipment. Work stations will be spaced to help maintain social distancing.

**COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE:** All CDL practice classes will be based on campus. Class sizes will be limited, and instructors will monitor for social distancing, etc. Students must meet pre-enrollment approval by the instructors.

**QUILTING:** Courses in quilting will be conducted via distance learning. Students must have good WiFi connectivity and their own equipment and supplies in their personal spaces.

# Luna to be closed for winter break

Luna Community College in Las Vegas and its campuses in Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer will be closed for winter break from Monday, Dec. 21, through Sunday, Jan. 3.

The college will resume its regular hours on Monday, Jan. 4.

The first day of Spring 2021 classes will be on Tuesday, Jan. 19. The last day for students to register for the spring semester is Tuesday, Jan. 26.



Join our team and help us serve our communities!

## Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

### FULL-TIME

- Area Health Education Center (AHEC) director ... opened Dec. 8, 2020
- Career services advisor ... opened Nov. 9, 2020; re-posted Nov. 30, 2020
- Chief financial officer ... opened Oct. 29, 2020
- Institutional Effectiveness and Research director ... opened July 28, 2020; re-posted Oct. 8, 2020

### PART-TIME

- Administrative assistant 2, Human Resources ... opened Dec. 2, 2020

### TEMPORARY PART-TIME

- Preschool substitute teacher/ caretaker ... opened Sept. 30, 2020

### ADJUNCT (per course)

- Career & Technical Education — automotive instructor, Springer ... opened Nov. 21, 2019
- Career & Technical Education — welding instructor, Santa Rosa ... opened Oct. 31, 2019
- Career & Technical Education — CDL instructor ... opened August 28, 2019



- Career & Technical Education — collision repair instructor ... opened June 6, 2018

Most recent postings listed first. All positions open until filled unless otherwise noted. For more information on each position, please log on to our website at <https://www.luna.edu/jobs>



## LCC Library Curbside Pickup



LCC Library has curbside pickup of books and DVDs for staff. Students registered for current classes can also take advantage of this service. Pickup is currently available from 8 to 3, Monday through Friday. For more information, instructions and procedures, visit [luna.edu/lrc](http://luna.edu/lrc).



**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)

# 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.



# New year's resolution:



(Luna file photo)

## Invest in your future.

We can help you make 2021 your year. Sign up for Spring 2021 at Luna Community College. Classes start Jan. 19, and registration for the spring semester continues now through Jan. 26.

Students are encouraged to meet with their department advisors to learn about degree and certificate requirements and to formulate

Spring 2021 schedules. Students must also clear their classes with the fiscal office/cashier to ensure they remain enrolled.

To view the Spring 2021 schedule and for registration instructions, please visit [LUNA.edu](http://LUNA.edu).

For more information, contact the registrar's office at 505-454-2548 or [registrar@luna.edu](mailto:registrar@luna.edu).



**It's been a challenging time for all of us.**

At Luna Community College, we can certainly attest to that. But smooth seas don't make skilled sailors. Sometimes you've got to go through tests to find out how tough you really are. Sometimes those tests make you realize what is truly important. They make you ...

# STRONGER.

Luna is proud to announce that the college is once again accredited free of sanctions by the Higher Learning Commission. Our resolve to serve our students and our communities is **stronger** than ever. We are excited to help you pursue and achieve your dreams in 2021 and beyond. Whether you're seeking training to get into the workforce, working toward a higher academic degree, or simply wanting to broaden your horizons by learning something new, Luna is here for you. Build a **stronger** future; let's make it happen together.

**SPRING 2021 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

**Classes start Jan. 19. Register through Jan. 26.**

**Tuition rates start at just \$40 a credit hour.**

**Visit [LUNA.edu](http://LUNA.edu) for details, or call**

**505-454-2500 or 1-800-588-7232.**

