



Thirteen Luna students earn American Welding Certification

Thirteen Luna welding students tested and passed the American Welding Society (AWS) certification, recently. Five of the students earned multiple certifications.

The following students received an AWS Certification: Jevon Cobos (FCAW) Flux Core Arc Welding; Makayla Espino (GMAW) Gas Metal Arc Welding; Gabriel Gonzales (SMAW) Shielded Metal Arc Welding; William Linzie (FCAW) Flux Core Arc Welding; Antonio Lucero (SMAW) Shielded Metal Arc Welding and (GMAW) Gas Metal Arc Welding; Fermin Lucero (SMAW) Shielded Metal Arc Welding.

Ruairi Lujan (SMAW) Shielded Metal Arc Welding and (GMAW) Gas Metal Arc Welding; Victor Montoya (SMAW) Shielded Metal Arc Welding and (GMAW) Gas Metal Arc Welding; Gabriel Pacheco (SMAW) Shielded



American Welding Society Certified Welding Inspector Michael Thomas advises Luna students, recently.

Metal Arc Welding 1, heavy Steel Plate; Victor Philips (SMAW) Shielded Metal Arc Welding; Isaiah Roybal (SMAW) Shielded Metal Arc Welding Open Root and (SMAW) Shielded Metal Arc Welding w/ Backing and (GMAW) Gas Metal Arc Welding; Marco Salinas (SMAW) Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Heavy Steel Plate and Henry Zoernig (SMAW) Shielded Metal Arc Welding and (GMAW) Gas Metal Arc Welding

“I want to congratulate my students, they work hard every day in the classroom,” said Luna Welding Instructor Gene Martinez. “I would like to thank the

WIN (Northern New Mexico Workforce Integration Network) grant for funding six of my welding students so they were able to pay for the AWS certification test. A special thanks to Camille Atkinson for her efforts to make this possible.”

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 from Monday, Dec. 18 to Tuesday, Jan. 2 for winter break.

The college will resume its regular hours on Wednesday, Jan. 3. Spring 2023 classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 16. The last day to add courses is Monday, Jan. 22.

Luna’s Student Nurses Association donated food baskets to fellow students and employees, recently. Pictured are Jamie Fernandez, Sara Romero, Jordan Tapia, John Trujillo, DeAnza Dimas, Gabrielle Benavidez, Mikah Lovato, Jennifer Sanchez, Ashley Gallegos and Marisol Maldonado-Renteria. Items were donated by students, staff, faculty, and from the Luna Strong program. “I want to thank everyone for making this a success,” said SNA advisor Joy Shrum.





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PUBLIC NOTICE OF UPCOMING ACCREDITATION REVIEW VISIT BY THE ACEN

The Luna Community College wishes to announce that it will host a site visit for continuing accreditation of its associate degree nursing program by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

You are invited to meet with the site visit team and share your comments about the program in person at a meeting scheduled at 1:00-2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, in the auditorium LO-1 of the Allied Health Building located at 366 Luna Dr., Las Vegas, NM

Written comments are also welcome and should be submitted directly to:

Dr. Nell Ard, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing
3390 Peachtree Road Northeast, Suite 1400
Atlanta, GA 30326

Or email: nard@acenursing.org

All written comments should be received by the ACEN by January 9, 2024



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MISSION

Luna Community College is dedicated to providing accessible, innovative and integrated learning experiences that prepare students to compete at the forefront of their chosen fields and to lead in their communities

Luna softball coach Randall Krutch says his team is toughening up

The following is a one-on-one interview with Luna's Randal Krutch.

What is your official title? My official title is Head Softball Coach/ Athletic Director

How many years have you been the head coach at Luna? This is my third year

How is the job of athletic director going? I think it is going very well. We are compliant with the NJCAA which is the highest status of compliance a school can achieve. We are working with the City in a couple different ways. In October alone the athletic department volunteered over 150 hours to the City in community support and we have plans for more hours in the spring. We hired a great new head baseball coach this year and I feel the program is moving in the right direction. We have solid leadership and experience in that position and we are very excited about the new atmosphere in the athletic department. Communication has gotten better, players work together, coaches work together and I feel that our department is working well with other departments to make the college experience better for all of our student-athletes.

Last year you surprised Region 9 with a fourth place finish in the post-season tournament? How much of that momentum can you take into the 2024 season? We had a great run last year, and we have some solid freshmen this year that I feel will make impactful contributions to the team. Our sophomores have developed their leadership skills and I think we have a talented team. We have a smaller roster this year, so our key to the season will be keeping athletes healthy. We improved in talent, but health will be the key to our success. We have a pretty tough pre-season so that will help us figure out where we need to put players on defense and in the lineup card to compliment each other's strengths and hide some weaknesses. Junior college is all about learning the game as well as learning how to be a college athlete, so there will be a learning curve,



Luna softball Coach (far right) Randall Krutch is in his third year at the college.

but I believe we have a solid team. Our recruiting class is going well for 2024 and we are excited about that as well.

What did you learn from your team during the fall season? We learned a lot about them as people, students and athletes. We have a variety of personalities on the team and it is great to have a program where athletes are comfortable being themselves. We had a majority university schedule this fall, so we had the opportunity to play at a

higher level and learn the game in a different gear. Players learned a lot about the game as well as learning their specific role in the program. Every player gets the opportunity to contribute in our program and learning how they contribute is vital in the success of a program.

What's the best way to describe your team? In a word, scrappy. We have a different feeling on the team than we did last year. We are tougher mentally and physically stronger than last year, and getting them to trust that is fun. Letting them fail and learn to be competitive, helps contribute to the keep fighting mentality.

Where will the Luna softball team be playing their home games this season? Do you feel there will be a home field advantage? Right now, we are planning on playing at Rodriguez park here in Las Vegas. These are the new turf fields in town. I think there will be a slight advantage to being the only team in our conference with a turf field and knowing how to play with the background and our wind is a nice advantage.

What do you look for when you are recruiting a student-athlete to your team? First we try to recruit New Mexico players. Then we look for good students in the classroom then we look at if they are athletes

Continued on page 4

Luna softball...



Luna sophomores Elisha Velasquez and Angelica Angel work on pre-practice drills to prepare for daily practice session.

Continued from page 3

and have the personalities to fit into our system. We are a heavy teaching program, so coming in with an attitude is not a strong trait. We look for the athletic, coachable, smart players that are team oriented.

I've often heard that a student-athlete means student first. How has your team done in the classroom in the fall? Our sophomores have done better than the freshmen, but that is very normal. Adjusting out of high school, away from family is often stressful for the student athletes, so we try to help them adjust with time management. Once they learn these skills they improve in the classroom. There are always players that just refuse to go to class and get their work in, so in those cases, we just have to part ways. This happens at every college across the country and we are not immune to it. Overall, we are continually getting better in the classroom and adjusting our processes to make it better every year.

What is a typical day for you as a coach and for your players?

Spring and fall look completely different so I will give you a rundown on each so your readers can understand the pressures that these student athletes deal with. In the fall, players start at 7 a.m. in the wellness center. Three days a week they are doing speed and agility as well as conditioning and two days a week they are lifting weights. At 8 a.m. the pitchers and catchers go to training in our beautiful athletic center and work in the bullpens until 9:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Every day we have practice until 1 p.m.. Then they go to lunch and classes. They are required to perform five hours of study hall during the week and on the weekends we play anywhere from 2 to 4 games. This also includes travel time to the schools we are playing since universities will not normally go to JUCO's to play. In the spring we start at 7 a.m. 4-5 days a week, bullpens three days a week and practice 3 hours a day, then travel the day before games and play 4-6 games every weekend then travel back if we are away. They are still required to go to study hall 5 hours a week.

What would you consider a successful season this year? Gradu-

ating our sophomores and getting them moved on to universities whether they play or not we want to see them continue their degrees. Increasing our wins over the previous year as well as making the regional tournament at the end of the season. Only the top four teams make the tournament and the top two seeds host a series.

What are the team's short term and long term goals? We set our team goals for the year as a team and the short term base goals are to be accountable, understand the game, be attentive to details and never quit.

Any final comments you would like to share? We are grateful for the faculty and staff here at Luna. Facilities has done an amazing job at fixing the exterior of our athletics center; it looks amazing. Our instructors are very proactive in all of our students success and our administration has done a great job at supporting our efforts. In a small school, so many people have to contribute their talents and gifts to the students and the school, and this school excels at this. So many people are invested in the future of athletics that we want to represent them well and build pride in what we do and more importantly how we do it.

“We are grateful for the faculty and staff here at Luna. Facilities has done an amazing job at fixing the exterior of our athletics center and it looks amazing. Our instructors are very proactive in all of our students success and our administration has done a great job at supporting our efforts,”—Randal Krutch

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For more information
please reach out to
Dr. Norma Guzman-Duranat
nguzmanduran@luna.edu



Luna students enjoy popcorn during last week's POP-IN STUDY Session event.

LUNA SOFTBALL

RoughRiders

January

27th-28th

El Paso CC

February

2nd-3rd

Odessa College & Barton CC

4th

Midland College

9th & 11th

Frank Phillips College

16th-17th

Cisco College Round Robin

18th

Cisco College

24th-25th

Colorado Northwestern CC

March

1st-2nd

El Paso CC

8th & 10th

Otero JC

12th

Midland College

14th

Western Texas College

16th- 17th

McCook CC

22nd & 24th

Trinidad JC

29th - 30th

Northeastern JC

April

13th-14th

Western Nebraska CC

19th & 21st

Lamar CC

27th-28th

Region IX Semifinals

May

4th-5th

Region IX Championships

2024

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Away

Neutral



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MORE INFO @ [HTTPS://LUNAATHLETICS.COM/](https://lunaathletics.com/)

LUNA BASEBALL

Rough Riders

2024

January

26th-27th Eastern Arizona

February

3rd-4th New Mexico Military Institute

16th-17th Ranger College

23rd-24th Dodge City CC

27th Adams State University JV

March

9th-10th Pima CC

13th CSU-Pueblo

16th Wayland Baptist JV

23rd-24th Western Nebraska CC

28th & 30th Lamar CC

April

6th- 7th Southeastern NE CC

13th-14th Northeastern JC

17th Adams State university JV

20th-21st McCook CC

27th- 28th Otero JC

May

3rd & 5th Trinidad State JC

9th- 12th Region IX Tournament

16th-19th District Tournament

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DATES: January 16 – May 10, 2024

CLASS TIMES

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Fridays 4:00-8:00 PM

For more information about registration details, fees and requirements **Contact:** Allied Health and Public Service Department at Luna.

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