



N.M. Higher Education leader to speak at Luna graduation

Stephanie Rodriguez, New Mexico Secretary of Higher Education, will be the guest speaker at Luna Community College's 2022 graduation scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 30 at the Media Education Auditorium.

Luna's graduation, originally scheduled for May, was postponed due to the wildfires that threatened the area in recent months.

Rodriguez joined the New Mexico Higher Education Department as Acting Secretary in 2020 and was confirmed as Cabinet Secretary in 2021.

Previously, she served as Senior Policy Advisor under Governor Lujan Grisham and covered topics and policies surrounding education, military affairs, and the national



Stephanie Rodriguez

laboratories.

Prior to joining state government, Rodriguez worked for Governor Lujan Grisham in Congress from 2014 to 2018, where she reviewed the impacts of federal policies on New Mexico communities and engaged in local and statewide outreach efforts.

She served as the liaison for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus on state initiatives surrounding equity and inclusion.

Rodriguez is committed to ensuring that students can pursue education and career opportunities right here at home.

She earned a master's and bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico's School of Architecture and Planning, and she is a former provost fellow and guest lecturer at the University of New Mexico's School of Architecture and Planning.

Luna held its 16th Annual Car Show on Saturday, July 23 with over 150 entries and raised over \$4,500 for scholarships.

For more car show photos, see page. 8. (photo by Jonathan Lujan)



Harry Estep is Luna's interim baseball coach. He replaces TC Nusser who is now an assistant baseball coach at the College of the Southwest in Hobbs. Estep was a longtime assistant of Nusser.

Estep told The Luna Light earlier this week that two of his former players recently signed at Division I colleges. Trent Dewyer, a pitcher, who played at Luna from 2018-2020 will now play for the Lobos of UNM and Milo Behrens, a catcher, who played at Luna the last two years, will now play at Texas-Rio Grande Valley.



Luna Welding students made trophies for the college's 16th Annual Car Show. Pictured (l-r) are Lance Romero, instructor Gene Martinez, Julian Sena and Baudel Lopez. For more information on Luna's Welding Program, contact Gene Martinez at 505-454-2589 or via email at gemartinez@luna.edu.

2022 Fall Mariachi Class

MUSC117 (Mariachi)

Tues /Thurs (6 p.m.-7:20 p.m.)

08/22/2022 - 12/09/2022

Humanities Building – Room TBD

Instructor: Billie Mathews

No course prerequisites

Course Description

A course designed to give an introduction to Mariachi music through sight-reading, music theory, and instrumental practicum. All musicianship levels are welcome..

For more information, e-mail bmathews@luna.edu

Get **STRONGER.**

Learn **essential skills** and build confidence to take on a **rewarding career!**

Luna's array of degree, certificate and workforce training programs include dental assisting, CNA, nursing, pre-engineering, business administration, early childhood education and many more.



FALL 2022 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Tuition rates start at just \$45 a credit hour. Luna's terrific value is recognized by national websites. Additional course fees may apply. Financial aid and scholarships available.

Fall classes start Aug. 22; registration ongoing through Aug. 29.

Visit LUNA.edu for details, or call 505-454-2500 or 1-800-588-7232.



SIDE BY SIDE: LOTTERY & OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

NEW MEXICO
HIGHER EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT



LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP 5.7.20 NMAC

- A qualifying student is defined as a recent high school graduate, an individual receiving a high school equivalency credential, recent honorably discharged veteran. The student must graduate or receive a credential in New Mexico. A veteran must be a New Mexico resident.
- The scholarship covers up to 100% of tuition but not fees.
- A student must enroll full time – 12 credit hours at a two-year college and 15 credit hours at a four-year college within 18 months of graduation.
- A 2.5 cumulative GPA is required for continued eligibility.
- The scholarship covers up to seven semesters with no credit hour cap.
- A probation period is allowed for exceptional circumstances on a per semester basis. A leave of absence can be renewable yearly at the higher education institution.
- There is no renewal for the scholarship after losing eligibility and exhausting the allowable probation.
- The scholarship begins in second semester of enrollment, and the first semester is covered by institutional funds, also referred to as the “Bridge” semester or “Bridge” scholarships.
- Provides for scaled, decoupled award if funds are not sufficient for 100% of tuition.
- The scholarship provides for scaled, decoupled awards if funds are not sufficient for 100% of tuition.
 - Community Colleges: \$380
 - Comprehensive Colleges: \$1,020
 - Research Universities: \$1,500
- Data collection and reporting are prescribed in statute.

NEW MEXICO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP 5.7.37 NMAC

- Same qualifications for recent high school graduates in the Legislative Lottery Scholarship and also defines returning adult learners.
- Eligible students must be established New Mexico residents.
- The scholarship covers up to 100% of tuition and fees.
- A student must enroll part time (a minimum of 6 credit hours) or fulltime (a maximum of 18 credit hours). Recent high school graduates must enroll full time or can enroll part time during the 18 month enrollment window.
- A 2.5 cumulative GPA is required for continued eligibility.
- The scholarship covers up to 90 credit hours for an associate degree and 160 credit hours for a bachelor’s degree with no semester cap.
- Can be applied in the first semester and after institutional funds for Legislative Lottery Scholarship recipients in the first semester only.
- A probation period is allowed for exceptional circumstances on a per semester basis. A leave of absence can be renewable yearly at the higher education institution.
- The scholarship may be renewed two years after losing eligibility and exhausting an allowable probation period.
- The scholarship provides for scaled, decoupled awards in the same proportions as the Legislative Lottery Scholarship if funds are not sufficient for 100% of tuition and fees.
- Data collection and reporting comport with the Legislative Lottery Scholarship statute.



ReachHigherNM.com is a one-stop interactive resource to guide students and families through the college-going process.

The site allows users to:

- Discover which state scholarship programs they are eligible for
- Find a participating public college or university
- Apply to colleges and universities in New Mexico
- Review frequently asked questions about state scholarship programs
- Understand the process for accessing tuition-free college

Please share this resource with your constituents!

ReachHigherNM.com

Gene Martinez says Luna has lots of potential

The following is a one-on-one interview with Luna's Gene Martinez.

Name: Gene F. Martinez

Position: Welding Instructor

What year did you start working for Luna? 2018

What do you like most about Luna and why? I like the one on one interaction with my students. They are a lot of fun when they are motivated to learn. I can share my knowledge and experience with them. I see the potential that Luna has. It's a matter of getting it done.

What does your job entail; what does a day at Luna look like for you?

I teach the science of welding (the lecture), the skill of welding (how to weld), the technique of welding (how to use and set the welding machine), the responsibility of welding (why you need a AWS certification to work in the industry), the practical practice of welding (how to make something), the business of welding (how to charge for your work), the critical thinking of welding (how to solve a problem).

In the mornings I have my lecture and media and lab presentations. In the lab, I go from booth to booth and coach my students on how to run a bead and explain what they are doing right and wrong.

Favorite food and why? I had a restaurant for many years so New Mexican food is what I like the most.



Gene Martinez and Dr. Carol Linder helped recruit potential students at Luna's 16th Annual Car Show recently.

Favorite TV show and why?

Right now my favorite show is Yellowstone. It's a good action drama.

Where would you like to see yourself in five years? My goal for now is to get the welding shop setup as an approved AWS testing facility.

What is your greatest strength? When I get determined to do something I can get it done.

What would you consider your biggest accomplishment in life and why? My biggest accomplishment was graduating from the School of Architecture at UNM. It was a tough school and a few people said I couldn't do it and I did it anyway.

What do you consider a good day in your life? If I get one thing done in a day, it's a good day for me.

"I like the one on one interaction with my students. They are a lot of fun when they are motivated to learn. I can share my knowledge and experience with them. I see the potential that Luna has. It's a matter of getting it done,"— Gene Martinez.

Free food pantry now open to Luna students



The Rough Rider *Tiendita* (food pantry) is now open for student use from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Maria H. Paiz Administration Building. The *Tiendita* was created through a partnership between LCC and the LCC Foundation. Through this partnership several very generous donations were received from private individuals and the Las Vegas Community Foundation to purchase non perishable food items and toiletries for students free of charge.

La *Tiendita* is located to your left, next to the receptionist desk as you come in the front door of the Maria Paiz Administration Building. A grand opening will be held during the fall semester.

Student Orientation

Luna 2022 student orientation will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 12 at the Media Education Center.

For more information, contact Admission and Recruiting Manager David Lucero at 505-454-2550.

This picture of the edition, depicts beautiful flowers that are grown in northern New Mexico. Recent rains have prompted flowers like this to flourish. This particular photo was taken in El Barranco, a small rural village in southeastern San Miguel County.



Congratulations to Luna Dental Assisting graduates



Congratulations to Luna Dental Assisting Students Jerilynn Martinez, Diandra Ortega, Joseph Rivera, Izaiah Romero, Serena Tapia and Ryan Trujillo who took part in the 2022 Luna Dental Pinning Ceremony on Thursday, July 21.

For more information on Luna's Dental Assisting Program, please call Gloria Pacheco at 505-454-2528 or via email at gpacheco@luna.edu.

Hundreds enjoy Luna Car Show



Luna would like to thank everyone that assisted in making the 2022 Car Show a success.

