

The latest news from Luna Community College

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Members of the Luna campus community react during speeches at Las Vegas Day at the Legislature on Feb. 17 at the state capitol in Santa Fe. For more on the session, see related story inside.

Shared governance at Luna

Revamped structure increases involvement

Fridays have become highly productive on the Luna Community College campus.

Many of the college's faculty and staff members are involved in Friday committee meetings within Luna's newly revamped shared governance structure, with a designated shared governance suite in the general studies building serving as the gathering place each week.

Tier 1 committees include Recruitment & Campus Life, Facilities & Safety, Informational

Technology & Distance Education, and Tutoring. Tier 2 committees are Advisement, Assessment and Curriculum. Tier 3 committees include a Retention & Completion group as well as the existing bodies of Student Senate, Faculty Senate, Staff Senate and Academic Leadership.

The Shared Governance Council, with Breanna Gould as chairwoman, serves as the management body of the structure. This council operates and facilitates the process of committee meetings, where faculty, staff, and students participate in the governance of the institution. The goal of the council is to act as process administrator, as committee meeting

times often look more like a government legislative session, with frequent hallway discussions and issues moving between committee meetings.

Committees take up "bills (SGIR)" to tackle issues of concern. Open bills are posted publicly, with a disposition board listing the status of open bills. Members represent most departments throughout the institution, providing for diverse insights and potential solutions, all within a system that is transparent and open for participation.

"The goal of the reorganization is to create an intentional

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Scholars

Four Level 2 Luna nursing students received Alta Vista Auxiliary scholarships. The scholarship is renewable for two semesters. Pictured (from left) are Alta Vista Auxiliary Scholarship Committee member Chuck Searcy, student MaRian Brotherton, committee member Carol Searcy, student Britney Cordova, committee member Rose Torres, student Ramona Trujillo, committee member Delicia Pacheco and student John Montoya.

Shared governance

Continued from Page 1

communication system of evidence collection that will facilitate the resolution of institutional issues, including concerns brought forth by the Higher Learning Commission,” according to the council.

Membership in each committee is determined by the vice president’s office in collaboration with Academic Leadership and the senates’ election processes. A group secretary assigned to each committee keeps records of attendance and minutes, and all bills are tracked and reported throughout the process.

Bills — each of which is originated with a standard Shared Governance Issue Request form — are submitted by any interested stakeholder in the

college and are taken up by the lowest tier applicable, by a subgroup directly related to the issue or request. The subgroup develops recommended actions and documents these before sending the bill to the next tier or applicable subgroup. Once a successful bill completes the highest tier, it may be approved as a procedure or submitted to the president’s office for consideration by the LCC Board of Trustees as a potential policy change. Final dispositions of bills are retained by the shared governance council, with an archive of completed SGIR forms to be maintained.

Kenneth Patterson, vice president of instruction and student services, is encouraged by the work that the college is accomplishing. “The Shared Governance Council has developed a concentrated, focused, and effective

system for participating in the governance of the college,” he said. “They are addressing issues and concerns at a record pace, with stakeholder input central to the process. Although it’s still in development and everyone is working out logistics, it’s quite amazing to watch.”

While Patterson is not a part of the shared governance structure, he is present during the process and often interacts with committees as a representative of the college’s administration and as a resource for accreditation and program requirements.

Information on Luna’s shared governance is public, and the development of the system and reporting can be monitored online at luna.edu/shared_governance_council.

Floats and fun with student senate



Luna's student senate introduces itself with a root beer float social that also showcases the new game room adjacent to the library.



Hernandez: 'Plan to succeed'

Secret Service agent offers motivational speech at Luna

U.S. Secret Service Agent Hector Hernandez recently spoke to a crowd of over 180 — the majority Luna students and employees — at Luna's Media Arts Auditorium.

"Humility is something I have always tried to demonstrate throughout my entire life," said Hernandez. "With that said, I know that I am here to somehow try to motivate you, to inspire you. I have to be honest with you. In reality, all of you inspire me. Why? Because all of you have made the decision to pursue higher education, to learn, to better yourselves, to improve your situation, and that is fantastic. I am proud of all of you."

Born and raised in El Paso, Hernandez was raised by his parents who came to the United States from Mexico with hopes and dreams for a better life for their children. Once they established themselves in the United States, the future for their family immediately began to flourish, Hernandez told the audience.

"Even though we had been poor financially, we were extremely rich in religion, love, pride, spirit and fortitude. In other words 'tenianos



Above: Veteran U.S. Secret Service Special Agent Hector Hernandez offers advice to Luna students Jamie Lee Chavez, Jennifer Chavez and Ashley Martinez who attended his talk at Luna on Feb. 13.



At left: Hernandez accepts a gift basket from Luna's Cindy Branch.

muchas ganas," said Hernandez.

Hernandez said one of the most important and critical decisions he ever made was to join wrestling as a youngster, which led to successes in high school and eventually earned him a scholarship to attend New

Mexico Highlands University. Hernandez would go on to win the school's first wrestling national championship. Hernandez said his championship opened many doors for him and was the core to all of his eventual accomplishments.

“All of that sounds great and successful, but it didn’t come without struggles and challenges,” said Hernandez. “My entire life I have always been considered the underdog. As a young child, moving from an all-Hispanic neighborhood to an all-white neighborhood. Being told I was not meant to attend college was devastating and disappointing to hear. However, in my heart and in my mind, I knew I wanted more for my future. I even found myself the underdog while I was attending Highlands. I was told by many people I was not smart enough to earn my degree. Well, I earned my degree, and I also earned a master’s degree.”

“I was told I would be too small of a heavyweight; I won the RMAC three times, won a national championship and made a U.S. national wrestling team. (I was told) I would never graduate the law enforcement training academy. Well, 28 years after graduating the academy, I have protected President Clinton, President George W. Bush, President Obama; I even was in charge of the protective detail for Vice President Pence, and I am now the deputy assistant director in the Office of Training for the entire U.S. Secret Service. I have been to every state in our country and have been around the world several times.”

“I share this with you because I

“Open up your mind to all the possibilities out there ... The world is waiting for you to come and shake it up in whatever profession you choose.”

Hector Hernandez

Secret Service agent, NMHU grad, former Las Vegas
in Feb. 13 speech at Luna Community College

want you to not limit yourself; open up your mind to all the possibilities out there. The world is waiting for you to come and shake it up in whatever profession you choose. But the opportunities won’t just show up; you have to work very hard, and you have to be consistent. You have to follow through and put in the hard work. We come from a humble people; we are raised with great morals, values and great work ethics. So you have to plan to succeed, not hope to succeed.”

Hernandez spoke to several people, including Luna students, after his talk.

“We needed a speech like this for students,” said Ashley Martinez, a Luna student from Las Vegas who aspires to be a U.S. Secret Service agent. “It was very interesting advice for students to look at bigger things in life.”

Ashton Hansen, a Luna student from Dallas, also wants to be a U.S. Secret Service agent one day.

“This is the best thing I’ve had since coming to Luna,” said Hansen about Hernandez’ talk. “It was amazing. I learned a lot of planning; I know what I need to do now.”

Hernandez reminded the audience the importance of never giving up.

“Never let anyone define you,” said Hernandez. “Never let anyone tell you that you can’t. Never let anyone put limits on you. I want to encourage you to dream big, visualize what you want to do, how you want to impact your family, your community, your school, your culture, the world. Out of this room, here today, something great will come. A new invention, a cure to a disease, maybe a U.S. president. From the bottom of my heart, thank you very much. I will pray for all of you! Muchas gracias y que Dios los bendiga! “

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

Session a success for Luna

Luna Community College stands to benefit from new state dollars appropriated in this year's New Mexico State Legislature. As the 30-day session came to a close Feb. 20 in Santa Fe, several key bills of particular impact on the college had been passed by lawmakers.

In the General Appropriations Act budget bill, Luna is poised to receive \$10.52 million. This includes \$7.33 million for instruction and general, \$497,000 for athletics, \$530,600 for student retention and completion, \$267,000 for nursing expansion, \$21,600 for dual-credit adjustment, and \$1.87 million for other purposes. The bill also includes anticipated annual salary increase of 3 percent for employees. An amended version of the bill passed the House 46-24 and the Senate 35-7 and was awaiting action by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham as of press time for the Luna Light.

The legislature also approved Senate Bill 207, which authorizes issue and sale of general obligation bonds for library acquisitions and capital improvements at colleges, including \$1 million that would go toward planning, design, construction and replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems on the Luna campus. The bond issue would be subject to voter approval in November. Senate Bill 207 passed as amended 41-0 in the Senate and 66-0 in the House.

Lawmakers countered the governor's Opportunity Scholarship initiative — introduced in House Bill 14 — with Senate Bill 323, which appropriates \$26 million toward the college tuition scholarship fund and introduction first for two-year programs like Luna's. Final action on that and other legislation was pending.

The governor has until March 11 to sign any bills that are on her desk; those left unsigned at that point are considered pocket-vetoed.



Admissions and Recruitment manager Moses Marquez provides information on the college.



Board of Trustees Vice Chairwoman Dianna Medrano talks with West LV Superintendent Chris Gutierrez.



President Dr. Rolando Rael and Las Vegas Mayor Vince Howell discuss the legislative session.



Nearly 20 individuals from Luna participated in Las Vegas Day at the Legislature. Pictured in the top photo are Auto Tech instructor Gene Sandoval, Vocational Director Geno Castillo, Collision Repair instructor Anthony Baca and Board of Trustees Chairwoman Dr. Phyllis Martinez.



Luna student Ashton Hansen gets some advice from U.S. Secret Service Agent Hector Hernandez. In the second photo, Samantha Padilla and Raelynn Sanchez enjoy root beer floats.

Luna students earn LANL scholarships

Five Luna Community College students are among 28 northern New Mexico students selected to receive \$62,250 in Career Pathways Scholarships awarded by the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation.

Luna's honorees include Pauline Medina, an early childhood education major from Mora County; Magen Venckus, a vocational studies major from Santa Fe County; and San Miguel County residents John Montoya, nursing; Masie Estep, early childhood education; and Raymond Chavez, barbering.

With a \$9,000 increase over the previous cycle, this was the largest amount ever presented to recipients of this scholarship. These students were chosen from an inspiring and competitive group of 70 applicants.

The Career Pathways Scholarship is available to those who have earned a high school diploma or GED/High School Equivalency, including nontraditional students and recent high school graduates, to help fund a two-year associate's degree, professional certification or trade. Previously, awards were capped at \$1,500 dollars (one year of funding at \$750 per semester) and scholarships were nonrenewable, although students could reapply for

a second year of funding.

This year, students were eligible for up to two years of funding, with second-year renewability contingent on the student making progress toward completion of a degree or certificate.

"We were able to award more Career Pathways Scholarships this cycle due to an increase in donations to this fund and the newly established Needs-Based Scholarship Fund," said Mike Ammerman, LANL Foundation Scholarship program manager. "Many people are moved to support these specific scholarships because they know their donation will make a significant impact in the lives of those in our community who need it most. Without these scholarships, many of our recipients would have to put their dreams on hold. The generosity of our donors quite literally makes dreams come true."

Contributions from Los Alamos National Laboratory employees and support from Triad National Security provide most of the Career Pathways funding, with additional support from community members via the LANL Foundation website: www.lanlfoundation.org/give



Learning techniques

Cosmetology expert Clarabell Hern, a native of Anton Chico, provides insights on nail techniques such as acrylic overlay and nail extensions to Luna cosmetology students during a recent class. Pictured (from left) are Devondre Cordova, Hern, Sabrina Duran, Samantha Martinez and Margarita Arellano. For more information on the Luna cosmetology program, call 505-454-5344.

Rough Riders score key road upset

Luna's baseball team won one of four games at a strong Vernon College (12-5) over the weekend in Vernon, Texas. Through 16 games, the Rough Riders are 5-11, well ahead of last year's pace.

Luna came tantalizingly close to a split, falling 13-12 in the series finale Saturday afternoon after having led 11-6 through five innings. After falling in the first game 7-1, the Rough Riders prevailed in the nightcap of Friday's doubleheader, 9-8. Vernon won 10-6 in Saturday's first game before having to rally to a comeback win.

Tyler Godfrey, Jace Piepkorn and Dustin Sipe hit home runs for Luna. For Godfrey and Piepkorn, it was their first homers of the year.

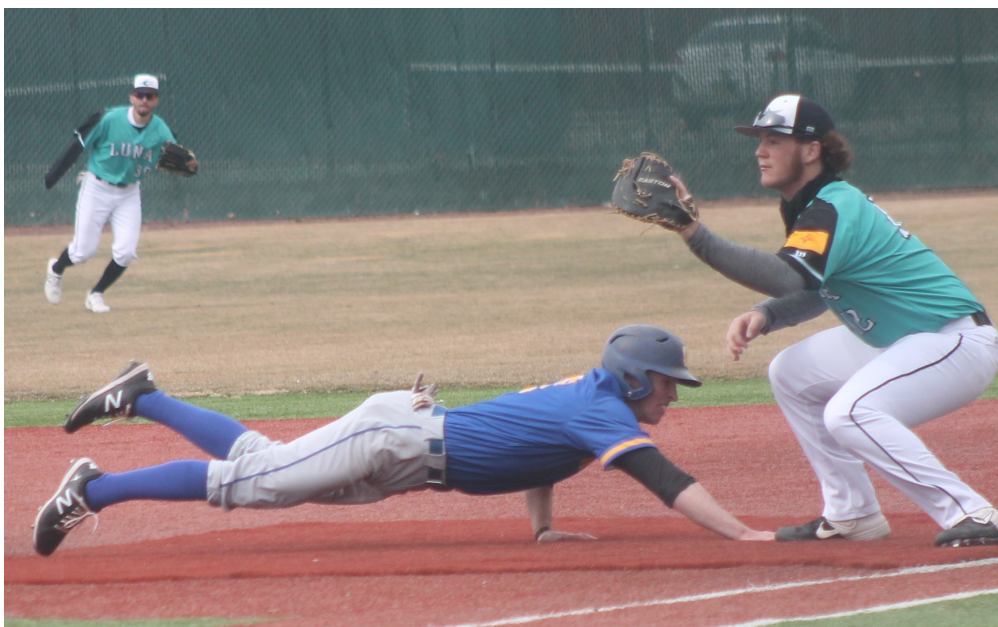
Game scores for the four-game set: 7-1 Vernon, 9-8 Luna, 10-6 Vernon and 13-12 Vernon.

The Riders and head coach T.C. Nusser are scheduled to play a three-game series at Wayland Baptist junior varsity on Friday and Saturday.

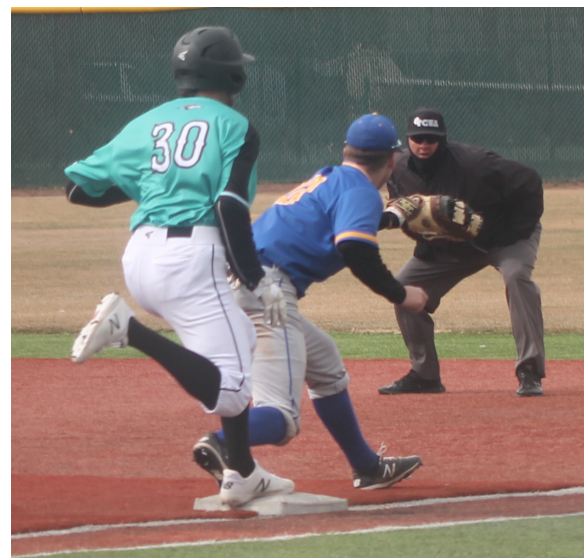
Vernon 7, Luna 1

The Rough Riders scored a single run in the top of the first and thanks to a good start in pitching and defense held that 1-0 lead until the bottom of the fourth. That's when the Chaps, aided by costly LCC errors, broke through for three runs to swipe away control. The Chaps added four more in the next inning, and Luna had no answer.

Sipe doubled and hit his second home run of the spring for Luna in going 2 for 3. Pitcher Brandon



Above: Luna first baseman Dustin Sipe attempts to pick off a Trinidad State baserunner during a recent home game.



At right: Luna's David Amaya sprints to first, trying to beat the throw.

Petrino struck out six and scattered six hits and one walk over five innings, allowing seven unearned runs. Ashton Hansen struck out two and didn't allow a hit or run in one inning of relief.

Luna 9, Vernon 8

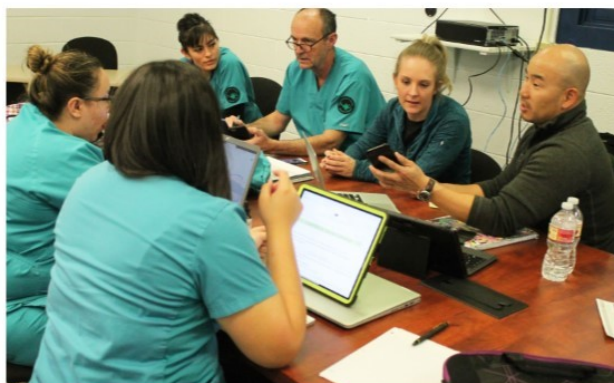
Again, Luna struck early. Again, the home team answered and stole the lead away. But this time, the

Rough Riders had more to say.

Luna scored three runs in the top of the first and took a 4-1 advantage into the bottom of the fourth, when Vernon put up four scores to pull ahead 5-4. But the visitors surged back with five runs in the top of the fifth and weathered a Chap rally to

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We help you take on the TEAS!



**Free TEAS prep
workshops**
5-7 p.m.
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FREE workshops to help prepare you for the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) are now being offered at Luna Community College. Contact Yvonne Piña, ypina@luna.edu, or 505-454-2525, to sign up or to get more information.

Workshop schedule

| SEQUENCE 1 | WORKSHOP TOPIC | SEQUENCE 2 |
|------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Feb. 18 | Pre-test & test strategies | March 31 |
| Feb. 20 | Reading | April 2 |
| Feb. 24 | Math | April 6 |
| Feb. 26 | Anatomy & physiology | April 8 |
| March 3 | Life science | April 14 |
| March 5 | Post-test & skills review | April 16 |

Take all six free workshops,
and we will pay your first TEAS fee!*

* All workshops and post-tests must be completed within same sequence in order to be eligible. Limit one free TEAS fee waiver per participant. Visit LCC Nursing Department for details.



Luna Night in Springer



Springer High School Dean of Students Christina Vigil addresses the Luna Board of Trustees during the college's Luna Night in Springer on Feb. 20. Area residents had the opportunity to interact with trustees and Luna employees and share thoughts about the college's presence in the community. Future meet-and-greets will be scheduled in Mora, Santa Rosa and Las Vegas.

Rough Riders

Continued from Page 9

clinch probably the most important win of the young season.

Sipe and Piepkorn both homered and drove in three RBI apiece. Piepkorn, Alex Baez (one triple), Tyler Burch and Tony Limon notched two hits each, and Kyler Rinehart added a double and one RBI. Dylan Begay (1-3) struck out three and earned the win. Daniel Morales fanned six, and K.T. Gearlds struck out three in picking up a save.

Vernon 10, Luna 6

LCC scored at its first opportunity, pushing three runs across in the top of the first. The

Chaps gradually tied it by the bottom of the fourth, but Luna put up another three-spot in the top of the fifth to lead 6-3. In the bottom of the sixth, however, Vernon finally put together a big inning, scoring six and seizing control. The Chaps hit four home runs, with Brooks Betcher and Ethan Rodriguez driving in four runs apiece.

Godfrey hit a three-run home run and doubled to finish 2 of 4 at the plate. David Amaya tripled, and Adrian Munoz doubled for Luna, with Amaya and Limon plating one run apiece. Ruger Bravo was tagged with the loss.

Vernon 13, Luna 12

For the fourth time in as many games, Luna scored in the first at-bats, leading 2-0 midway through the

first frame. The Riders led 5-3 midway through the third and 9-4 an inning later. It was 11-6 LCC going into the bottom of the sixth – when the Chaps turned it around with seven runs. The Riders had a chance to reclaim the lead in the top of the seventh but managed one run when at least two were needed.

Amaya doubled twice and Munoz notched three RBI in a 3-for-5 performance to pace Luna. Godfrey, Sipe, who hit a solo home run for his team-leading fourth of the season, and Limon added two hits each. Max Bernstein absorbed the pitching defeat in relief.

Note: Luna softball (0-2) is scheduled to host its home opener Friday against Trinidad State Junior College.

Dental assisting open house March 4



Luna dental assisting students develop clinical skills in the on-campus lab. Dental assistants are a vital part of the dental practice, versatile and multi-talented.

Community members are invited to learn more about Luna Community College's dental assisting program in an open house Wednesday, March 4, at the LCC Allied Health building.

The open house, which will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., is being held in conjunction with Dental Assistant Recognition Week 2020 (March 1-7).

The open house will expose visitors to the career opportunities available in dental assisting and beyond, and information will be provided on Luna's dental assisting program.

Refreshments will be available between 10 a.m. and noon.

For more information on the Luna dental assisting program, visit luna.edu or call Gloria Pacheco, program administrator, 505-454-2528.

Community outreach



Luna President Dr. Rolando Rael speaks to local Kiwanis members during a recent gathering.

Join us for Luna Night in MORA

A public
meet & greet
March 25

WHAT: A public meet & greet with Luna Community College

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, followed by LCC Board of Trustees meeting at 6 p.m.

WHERE: Mora High School lecture hall

- Meet your new LCC Board of Trustees, including your District 3 representative, Dr. Phyllis Martinez, and Luna President Dr. Rolando Rael!
- Learn more about the college and its offerings as well as its commitment to Mora and the rest of District 3!
- Light refreshments to be served!

