

Dr. Edward Martinez selected as president by Luna board

The Luna Community College Board of Trustees selected Dr. Edward Martinez as the next president of Luna Community College in a special meeting held on Tuesday, May 4.

The board authorized Gold Hill Associates, a search firm hired by the BOT, to begin contract negotiations. The board is scheduled to take action on the contract details at its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 11. The search process began in January.

Dr. Martinez is currently a special assistant to the president at New Mexico Highlands University.

Martinez' key responsibilities are: work with diversity and equity issues; work on special assignments in advancement and alumni relations; sustain NMHU operations related to programming at Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area and special projects as assigned by the president in federal grant fund raising and in matters related to university strategic planning and accreditation, community relations, board relations, faculty relations, budget and finance and government relations.

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Dr. Edward Martinez



Congresswoman visits campus

Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez, who represents New Mexico's 3rd Congressional District, meets with Luna Community College Acting President Morris Madrid Friday morning at the college. In Washington, DC., Congresswoman Leger Fernandez has already taken a leadership role with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus as a freshman representative. Congresswoman Leger Fernandez has also been appointed to the House Committee on Education and Labor and the House Committee on Natural Resources.



Student welders complete testing

Several Luna welding students took their American Welding Society certification tests recently. Pictured from left are Joshua Corbin, Rico Gallegos, Donovan Garza, American Welding Society inspector Michael Thomas, Lucas Montoya, Isaiah Dominguez and welding instructor Gene Martinez.

PHOTO OF THE EDITION: Signs of spring arriving here at Luna Community College are in abundance, as this beautiful tulip outside of the student services building depicts.



Luna graduation Friday, May 14

Luna Community College will be having a graduation ceremony at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 14, at the Media Arts Auditorium.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, this year's graduation will include fall 2019, spring 2020, summer 2020, fall 2020, spring 2021 and summer 2021 graduates. Luna will follow state health orders and each graduate will be allowed to invite two guests.

Everyone attending graduation will have their temperature checked and will be asked a series of Covid-19-related questions before entering the auditorium.

"We are very excited to be having a graduation ceremony this year," said Luna Registrar Geraldine Saavedra. "We are very proud of all our graduates and their families and I want to congratulate everyone for this achievement."

The graduation will be livestreamed and recorded. Both the livestream and recording can be viewed on Luna's YouTube page by logging into luna.edu and clicking on the YouTube link at the bottom right corner of the main page.



President

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From 2016 to 2020, Martinez served as vice president for strategic enrollment management at NMHU, where he addressed retention issues by developing long-term strategies through innovation, listening, inclusivity, collaboration, transparency and data analysis. Martinez oversaw the offices of financial aid, recruitment and admissions, student relations, academic support, the Native American Center and the International Education Center. Martinez is the founding director of

ARMAS (Achieving in Research, Math, and Science Center) at NMHU, which is designed to engage, provide comprehensive support and retain students through graduation in the STEM area.

Martinez has extensive experience in grant writing where he has brought in over \$14,000,000 and has facilitated numerous partnerships with community organizations, other colleges and universities and federal and state agencies. Martinez has also been a faculty member in the STEM area at NMHU and served as the chair of the Department of Natural Resource Management.

Martinez earned his Ph.D. in Environmental and Natural

Resources Sciences from Washington State University in 2000.

On April 1, the BOT named six finalists (one of the finalists later took his name out of consideration). Earlier this month, the remaining five finalists participated in Zoom forums that were available for public view and feedback.

Dr. Kenneth Patterson, who has served as interim president at Luna Community College since June 2020 will move back to Luna's vice president of instruction and student services. Morris Madrid, Luna's chief financial officer, will serve as the acting president until the permanent president comes onboard.

Marissa Archuleta says Luna was a great choice for her nursing studies

The following is an interview with 2019 Luna nursing graduate Marissa Archuleta.

When did you graduate from the Luna nursing program?

I graduated from Luna Community College in May 2019 with honors (*magna cum laude*). I became a licensed registered nurse in August of 2019 when I sat for my state boards.

Where did you attend high school and what year did you graduate from high school?

I attended the West Las Vegas School District until sixth grade. I then attended Robertson High School and graduated in May 2015 with honors. I have always held a high appreciation for both school districts as they both had wonderful educators who helped shape me into the individual I have become. Elizabeth Ulibarri, Señora Pacheco, Mrs. Demarco-Chandler, Mrs. Ortiz, Señora Flores y Señor Rodriguez helped me become enriched in my Hispanic culture and my love for Spanish, writing, and health sciences.

What other degrees or certificates have you earned since leaving Luna?

After graduating from LCC, I enrolled in the RN-to-BSN program at UNM (Bachelor of Science in Nursing). As a high school student, I took advantage of the many dual credit courses offered at NMHU and LCC, which is why I was able to earn my BSN degree from UNM in just 10 months with the honor of a *cum laude* designation.

In addition, what degree or certificate are you currently earning and in what college or university are you earning your credentials?

Just recently, I was accepted into the Doctor of Nursing Practice-Family Nurse Practitioner Program at New Mexico State University. The program will help prepare me to earn my clinical doctorate so that I may practice as a certified family nurse practitioner in the state of New Mexico. The application process was very lengthy and competitive. I first applied in January of 2021, I made a second interview in March and was notified of acceptance in April. The program selected 20 applicants from across the country into the doctoral



Luna 2019 nursing graduate Marissa Archuleta has earned a bachelor of science in nursing from the University of New Mexico. Recently, she was accepted into the Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner Program at New Mexico State University. Courtesy photo

program.

What type of job and career would you like to be in, say five or 10 years from now?

Ten years from now I hope to own my own family practice where I can provide healthcare services to the rural populations in need. I love working in pediatrics, and women's health, but I do see a great need for chronic care management such as cardiovascular

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Archuleta

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disease, renal disease, and diabetes across the lifespan.

What made you go into nursing?

I grew up with many nurses in my family. My grandma is a retired nurse from NMBHI. She was always able to provide for her family of seven with the career she chose, and I have always valued the knowledge she possessed as a nurse. I considered medical school in my teenage years, but I wanted to pursue a career where I would have a better relationship with patients such as that found in nursing.

What is the most enjoyable and most difficult aspect of the nursing industry?

My most enjoyable aspect of nursing is knowing how much of an impact I can have on a patient for going that extra mile to make sure they are cared for. I feel at ease driving home at the end of the day knowing that each patient I care for has some peace of mind or ease with the care I was able to provide for them that day. One of my most enjoyable moments I have had thus far is helping to vaccinate thousands of community members in southern New Mexico with the COVID-19 vaccine. It has been a difficult year with the pandemic, so it is rewarding to know that each person I inoculate with the vaccine is that much safer from the detrimental effects of the COVID-19.

What jobs have you had in nursing?

I have worked in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque, and I worked as a Primary Care Clinician at Christus St. Vincent in Santa Fe. I now work at New Mexico State Aggie Health and Wellness Center which is a very fortunate job to have! This job opportunity has allowed me to pursue my graduate studies with financial assistance provided through educational advancement at NMSU.

How was your experience as a student in Luna's nursing program?

I enjoyed my experience very much and do not believe I would have had the moral support that LCC provided me with elsewhere. I enjoyed having good relationships with my mentors and instructors who really pushed me to my limits because they believed what I was capable of becoming. I was able to form good networks with preceptors and instructors in the surrounding areas,

“I enjoyed my experience very much and do not believe I would have had the moral support that LCC provided me with elsewhere. I enjoyed having good relationships with my mentors and instructors who really pushed me to my limits because they believed what I was capable of becoming...”

Marissa Archuleta
2019 Luna nursing graduate

and local hospitals which has helped me to branch out and start a successful career.

Would you recommend Luna's nursing program to prospective students? If so, why?

Absolutely! I am proud to say I finished nursing school debt free because of the affordable tuition rates that LCC has in place. The smaller cohort size, and atmosphere at LCC helped me to develop close relationships with my peers and instructors. I did not feel intimidated to branch out and ask for further explanations and help when needed. The state-of-the-art simulation lab helped me practice and advance my skills tremendously as a nursing student. When I visited clinical rotations, I felt confident and ready to go because of the skill I was developing through LCC's nursing program. (Also driving down the hill after a long day of class or clinicals to a home-cooked meal at my mom's house was a huge perk of attending LCC!)

What advice do you give a high school or non-traditional student that is looking for a career in nursing?

Attending a large university or college far away from home is not the only way to achieve success in your life. The avenues and paths I took to becoming a future nurse practitioner came from the trust I had in LCC to provide me with a firm foundation in my education. I had to take the same national board-certified test to become an RN that students at other top colleges and universities took, so that itself shows the high level of education that LCC can provide to students. The many trades, and programs offered at LCC can be the start to an entire journey that you are meant to set out on!

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Archuleta

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Twenty-five or 30 years down the road (or more) what do you want to be saying about your nursing career?

Twenty-five years down the road I would like to say that my nursing career provided me with the means to support my children, spouse and family as well as grant me the opportunities to practice at the highest level of my degree. Most of all I would hope to become a pillar for the community where I live by providing health care to families of all ages, and races.

Who was your biggest influence in life and why?

My mom was a first-generation college student who has had a successful career and life because of

the educational opportunities that NMHU brought to her. My mom has traveled the world, studied abroad, and has always provided for her family because of the endless possibilities that education brought her. My biggest influence in perusing my doctorate comes from my dad, who has always told me "Education is something no one can ever take away from you." I remember the days where my dad would tell me "Hijita, I just know you can be a doctor someday" and those words seemed like such a dream as I would just giggle and shrug my shoulders, but now they are a reality I am about to live out, and I owe it to my parents for teaching me the importance of school, and education.

What inspires you every day to be the best in your profession?

I understand the amount of trust, and faith that goes into working with doctors and nurses in times of trial and hardship, and for this I try to be the best person I can be as a nurse.

Please share any final comments.

Thank you to my mom, dad for pushing the importance of education. Thank you, Isaac, for pushing me to get out of my comfort zone and chase my dream of becoming a nurse practitioner. Thank you to the many educators at LCC who helped me to reach success thus far. To my wonderful nursing instructors — Maxine, Shawntell, Kim, Susan, and Lucia — thank you! The endless possibilities and dreams you are in pursuit of are often just right outside your door.

Serving their community



A group of Luna Community College students and employees recently participated in a community clean-up in conjunction with the City of Las Vegas' volunteer partnership group Vecinos Juntos.

Luna teams headed to postseason

Baseball and softball teams at Luna Community College are headed to the postseason after having wrapped up their regular seasons with home games against Otero Junior College this past week.

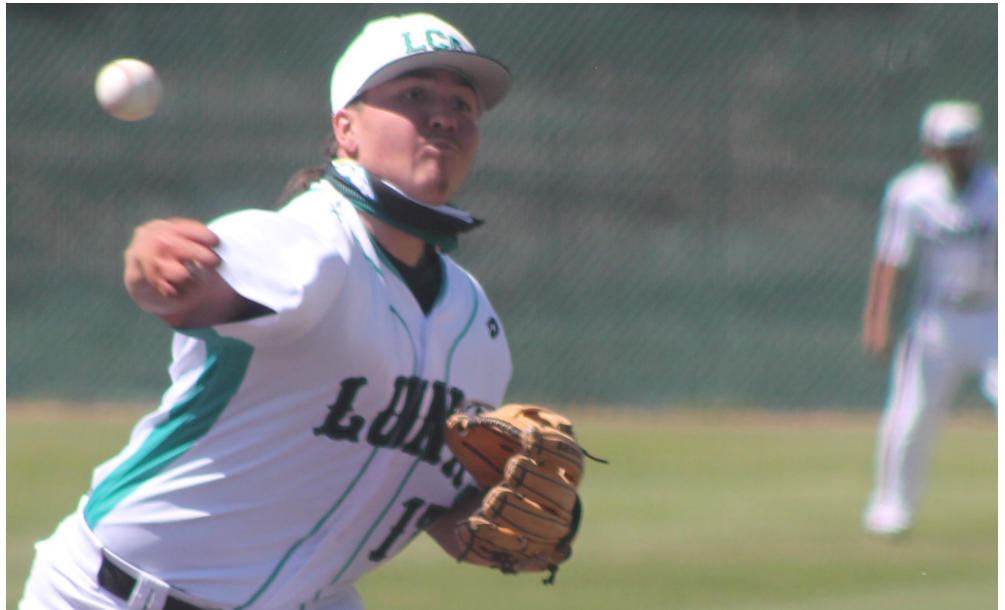
Head coach T.C. Nusser and his Rough Rider baseball team will be playing a best-of-three playoff series against McCook Community College on Friday and Saturday, May 7-8, in McCook, Neb. Game times were to be determined. The winner advances to play the Lamar-Northeastern winner on May 13 in Colorado Springs, Colo., the site of the remainder of the Region 9 baseball tourney.

Meanwhile, head coach Steve Wallace and his Rough Rider softball squad are slated to play Northeastern Junior College at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 8, in the opening round of the double-elimination Region 9 softball bracket. That tournament is being held in Trinidad, Colo., and runs through Tuesday, May 11.

A recap of Luna's last series of the regular season:

Otero baseball 9, Luna 6

This one stayed close throughout, and Luna led 3-2 after getting on the board in the bottom of the third inning. The visiting Rattlers retaliated with back-to-back three-run innings in the fourth and fifth to regain control. Milo Behrens hit 3 of 4 with two doubles and one RBI, Francisco Ochoa was 2 of 4 with a home run and a double for a game-high four runs batted in,



Las Vegas Robertson alumnus Austen King pitches part of three innings for a game against Otero Junior College on Sunday, May 2. King is a sophomore for the Rough Riders.

and Dusty Sipe added a solo home run for the Rough Riders. Ryan Clark (1-3) was tagged with the pitching loss.

Luna baseball 16, Otero 6

Six Rough Riders logged multiple hits, and nine had at least one hit as Luna scored in every frame of a game stopped in walk-off style in the bottom of the fifth inning. Otero led 4-1 midway through the second before the Riders answered with a five-run outburst and never looked back. David Amaya went 3 for 4 with two doubles and three runs; Rogelio Gonzales, Ross Panlasigui and Matthew Gelwick joined Behrens and Ochoa with two hits apiece. Rattler pitchers largely steered clear of Sipe, walking him three times. Tony Limon (2-2) recorded the win

after scattering eight hits and one walk over five innings. It was the nightcap of a Friday doubleheader.

Otero baseball 17, Luna 9

The series finale took place under balmy conditions Sunday and started with the feel of a heavyweight fight. The Rattlers struck first and led 5-0 after one and a half innings. Then, highlighted by a three-run homer by Isaac Toledo, Luna surged with seven runs to steal the lead at 7-5. Otero came back with a five-run third and went on to add four runs to its lead before the home side scored again. The Riders were hampered by four errors. Sipe and Zwiener added home runs for Luna, held to seven hits total.

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Staff senate election coming up

Luna staff members interested in representing their peers on the college's staff senate are invited to run in the upcoming election.

Nomination forms are tentatively scheduled to be sent out via campus e-mail to all current members of the staff on Monday, May 17. Those interested in running for staff senate are asked to complete and submit the nomination forms to Dave Kavanaugh in the public relations office no later than 5 p.m. Friday, May 28. E-mail forms to dkavanaugh@luna.edu.

After verification takes place, the full list of candidates and voting instructions will be e-mailed to all staff members. Staff members may then vote for their choice of candidates within their staff groups. Votes must be e-mailed using campus e-mail only to Sandra Rivera in the Department of Human Relations, srivera@luna.edu, by the voting deadline, which will be announced.

Votes will be gathered and counted by a neutral party, with election results to be announced via e-mail and as part of the Luna Light.

Faculty senate named for 2021

Six newly elected members of the Luna Community College Faculty Senate are taking office for the 2021-22 academic year.

They include: Billie Mathews, Associates; Rachael Lucero, STEM and Business; Larry Fields, Humanities, Education and Adult Basic Education; Chantel Rivera, Allied Health Sciences and Nursing; Gene Sandoval, Career & Technical Education; and Sherry Goodyear, Satellites.



Luna freshman Alexis Rubio drives a hit against Otero; Rubio and teammate Victoria Gonzales hit home runs Tuesday, May 4, in the regular-season finale.

Postseason

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Las Vegas Robertson alumnus Austen King pitched three full innings for the Riders; Zack Gutierrez (0-2)

absorbed the pitching loss.

Otero softball 10, Luna 1

With the scheduled Sunday doubleheader scratched and a Monday doubleheader rained out, the four-game softball series between Luna and Otero was shortened to one twinbill and moved to Tuesday at Cowgirl Field. Luna endured a slow start and fell behind 6-0 despite getting baserunners on. An Imani Hall RBI hit scored Anahi Ruiz to break the ice in the fourth. But the Rattlers pulled away with a three-run fifth. Ruiz had a double and was one of four Luna batters to record a hit. Mary J. Martinez took the pitching loss.

Otero softball 20, Luna 7

Tuesday's nightcap saw the Rough Rider bats gradually come to life, although the Otero offense picked up where it left off as well. Alexis Rubio hit a two-run homer, her first as a college player, to help Luna get within 4-3 in the second inning. Victoria Gonzales homered in the third to make it 9-4, but the Rattlers extended their lead to 15-4 amid a surge that saw Searra Arellano hit a shot off the scoreboard. Luna made it 15-7 before Otero scored five unanswered runs in the fifth to close out the game.



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smart phone camera



**2021-2022 FAFSA WILL COVER FALL 2021,
SPRING 2022 AND SUMMER 2022**

QUICK TIP

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TO IMPORT YOUR 2019 TAXES**

**LCC FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
366 LUNA DR. LAS VEGAS, NM 87701
PHONE: 505-454-2560
EMAIL: FINAID@LUNA.EDU**

**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.

Interested in nursing school?

TEAS

Nursing Entrance Exam

May 2021

Test dates



Scheduling for the following dates is taking place now.

Tuesday, May 4	1:30 p.m.
Friday, May 7	10 a.m.
Monday, May 17	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, May 18	1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 19	10 a.m.
Thursday, May 20	8:30 a.m.
Friday, May 21	1:30 p.m.
Monday, May 24	10 a.m.
Tuesday, May 25	8:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 26	1:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 27	10 a.m.
Friday, May 28	8:30 a.m.

To reserve a test date, contact:

Yvonne Pina

505-454-2525

ypina@luna.edu

Please provide your phone number and preferred exam date in your e-mail.

Please create an account with ATI prior to the exam date. To create an account, go to atitesting.com, click on Create Account. On the day of your exam, please arrive 10 minutes early to log in and register for the exam. You will need to bring a debit/credit card to purchase the exam (\$70 per attempt) and a photo ID for identification verification. A calculator is available in ATI, and the proctor will provide paper and pencils for use during the exam. All materials will be collected by the proctor before you leave the exam site. No late admission to testing area.



Luna preschool celebrates Mother's Day Tea Party



Mia and Mika
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool



Elvia
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 5/6/21



Mika
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 5/6/21



Matthew and Mom
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 2021



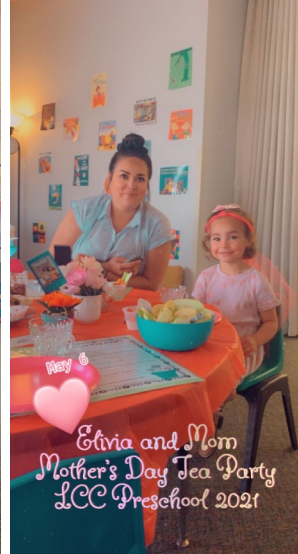
Cade and Mom
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 5/6/21



Layden - Mom - Mason
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 2021



Elvia and Mom
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 2021



Elvia and Mom
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 2021



Deidra - Mom - David
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 2021



Louis - Mom - James
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 2021

For more information on Luna's
Early Childhood and Education
Department, please call 505-
454-2504 or 505-454-2535.



Teacher Candice and
Teacher Masie
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 5/6/21



Louis and James
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 2021



Mika and Mom
Mother's Day Tea Party
LCC Preschool 2021

Courtesy photos

Get STRONGER this summer.

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 and learn something new, Luna is here to help you build a stronger future.

SUMMER 2021 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Classes start June 7. Register now through June 11.

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

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

