

The latest news from Luna Community College

Second Volume 6, Issue 11

June 9, 2023

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Luna’s Nichole Collins recognized for her teaching

Luna Community College’s STEM faculty Nichole Collins was recently one of 50 winners of the CompTIA+TestOut Teacher Appreciation giveaway where there were over 2000 nominations. CompTIA+Testout sent out a call for nominations through their Labsim platform asking students to recognize instructors who have helped them succeed in their learning.

Collins utilizes the CompTIA+TestOut technology courseware throughout many of her courses as it is an integrated online curriculum that allows students to build skills through a virtual environment as well as offers the ability to earn and prepare for industry certifications. Many students have earned TestOut’s Office Pro, Client Pro, PC Pro, Network Pro, Security Pro, and Ethical Hacker Pro, to name a few, as part of the curriculum in the Computer Science AAS program and respective certificate programs.

The following is one-on-one interview with Collins as she shares her insights on the award and teaching acuity.

What did you say or think when you first found out you were selected?

I felt and still am proud, to say the least. It is an honor to be nominated by my students and see what they had to say. One thing that stood out in their nominations is something I take pride in, which is being available and understanding. I am grateful for all the students I have been able to work with and enjoy seeing their success.

What is your approach to teaching?

I approach teaching through student-focused and project-based learning. I feel it is also important to be understanding and have an inclusive learning environment as not all students are the same.

What makes a good instructor?

I do not believe there is a cookie-cutter answer to what a good instructor is, as there are a variety of methods and approaches an instructor may use. I think the foundation of a “good” instructor is a person who cares about the success of their students as well as one that can adapt.



Nicole Collins says her approach to teaching is student-focused and project-based learning.

How long have you been teaching at Luna?

I have been teaching at LCC since 2010. However, I also had the opportunity to teach during the summer of 2000 and 2001 for the kid’s college.

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Collins...

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What programs do you oversee or teach in?

I oversee the curriculum and teach all the program courses for the AAS in Computer Science, Computer Application Specialist Certificate, Cyber Security Certificate, and Video Game Design and Development Certificate.

What classes do you teach on an annual basis?

I cannot list what courses I teach on an annual basis as I teach all the CSA, CS, and VGD courses we offer. I have a set matrix for when all CS courses will be offered so that students can complete them within a two-year time frame and not only earn a CS AAS degree but earn additional certificates. This summer I am offering Introduction to Computer Science, Introduction to Information Systems, Security +, and Ethical Hacking.

What do your students do once they graduate from your program?

It depends, some students will continue their education at the Bachelor level. However, many enter the workforce as our CS program takes a skills-based approach to information technology. Locally, students have gained employment at school districts, clinics, and institutions, working in their IT departments. Students are also gaining employment outside our local area and state with a current graduate working in Wyoming. Information technology is a career that is growing and will continue to grow as well as provides a well-paying career.

What motivates you to teach?

I enjoy sharing my knowledge with others, and in the field of technology, you must be willing to continue to learn as it is an ever-evolving area of study. Luna Community College is in my blood, as my grandfather was one of the founding board members as well as served on the original task force that did the feasibility study to build what at that time was Luna Vocational Technical Institute now LCC. My mother was a VP of Finance and Administration and retired from LCC after

28 years. This is part of what motivates me as I know that LCC is an asset to our communities as we provide opportunities for people to learn a skill, trade, or continue their educational path. It not only is a job, but I enjoy being a part of this legacy.

What are your short-term goals and long term goals?

I would like to continue building and maintaining the program to keep it current and provide students with the ability to earn a degree that has value. In the future, I may see myself stepping into an administrative role at Luna. Recently, LCC stepped into the E-sports world, and I hope that we can build that further.

What do you usually tell a student on the first day of class each semester?

One thing I tell students is “Do not be afraid to ask questions. I may not always have the answer, but I will help you find that answer if I do not have it.” I have also told students that I cannot teach them everything as there is always more to learn, but your education is in your hands, you get from it what you put in. I like to let my students know I am human just like them and I am always learning just like them as I want to encourage lifelong learning.

Although it is an individual award, what does this award mean to Luna overall?

I think this is an example of the instructors we have here at LCC. I also believe it demonstrates the importance of having knowledgeable and caring instructors and their impact on our students. It is important to value instructors and their students as they are the foundation of education.

Any final comments?

Thank you to the students who nominated me (it was anonymous) as well as all students who have been in my courses. If you are interested in the Computer Science program or certificate programs (CAS, Cyber Security, VGD) please feel free to contact me (ncollins@luna.edu) I will walk you through what the program entails and what it would look like for you.

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



Luna Community College student Mateo Vigil (right) talks with student support specialist Pablo Hernandez (left) and with student support specialist Robert Salgado on Monday, June 5. Vigil, a math major and native of Las Vegas, registered for summer classes. The last day to register for summer classes at Luna is Friday, June 9. For more information on summer classes visit Luna's website at luna.edu or call 505-454-2550.

Luna to host traditional adobe workshops

Adobes will benefit properties affected by the fire and floods in San Miguel and Mora Counties

Luna Community College will be hosting two traditional adobe workshops, the first on Saturday, June 16 and the second on Saturday, June 24. Both workshops are free, open to the public, and will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. behind the preschool at Luna's main campus in Las Vegas.

The adobes will benefit properties affected by the fire and floods in San Miguel and Mora Counties.

Luna Community College is partnering with Las Vegas Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation and Cornerstones Community Partnerships. The Santa Fe Community Foundation and the McCune Foundation grants have provided financial support to Cornerstones. Rocky Road Gravel Products of Las Vegas has donated the soil materials for the adobes.

Participants will learn about

the materials being used, the process of forming of the bricks along with the sun drying and stacking aspects. A lunch consisting of beans, chili, sweet rice, tortillas and sodas will be provided.

For more information, please call Jake Barrow at 505-231-5408 or contact Jesse Gallegos at jgallegos@luna.edu.

Springer Future Rough Rider's Summer Program a success

The first of four LCC Future Rough Riders' Summer Programs was held in Springer from May 30 - June 2. Eleven students signed up and participated in a variety of activities including "Found Sound" with Dr. Billie Mathews, River Health with Rachael Lucero, visits to the Mills Mansion and the Santa Fe Trail Museum, and many other projects including Lego design, constellations, and jewelry-making. Lunch was provided by Zayra's Cafe of Springer. At the end of the program, parents gathered for a "Found Sound" concert in the Luna auditorium on Friday afternoon at the Springer satellite. For the second week of the Summer Program, the Mentorship Program's education team will be in Las Vegas at the main campus. For more on what the children did, please visit the mentorship TikTok channel at #lunamentorship.



(Left photo) Rachael Lucero and Billie Mathews during the "River Health" portion of the summer program held at the Cimarron River in Springer.

(Top photo) Visit to the Santa Fe Trail museum where students were asked to find something that interested them, gather information, and then report back to the group. (L to R) Esperanza Tafoya, Lorelai Perez-Tafoya, Matthew Montoya, Reina Garcia, Micah Acosta, Isabella Trujillo, Katherine Collins, Jaycee Apodaca (in front in white), Asaiah Encinias, Stephanie Garcia, Billie Mathews, and Jordan Romero.



Micah Acosta poses with his Lego creation and Reina Garcia poses with a Lego house she built.



Students practice playing buckets under the tutelage of Dr. Billie Mathews. (Right photo) Jaycee Apodaca compares her shoe to the shoe of the Tallest Man in the World, Robert Wadlow.





SUMMER REGISTRATION

LCC GERALD ORTEGA

WELLNESS CENTER

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE ACCREDITED COURSE

PE 112

Physical Fitness

\$75 per semester
\$55 for Seniors*

OTHER OPTIONS:

Monthly rates:
\$32 for Students
\$10 for Seniors*
Day pass:
\$3 for Students
\$2 for Seniors*

** Seniors is individuals 55+*

Registration:

For accredited course PE 112 Physical Fitness, please do so through the Registrar's Office or visit

luna.edu

Monthly pass:

Contact the Fiscal Office Michelle Cordova or Ida Valdez at **505-454-2500**



REGISTER FOR
SUMMER 2023

ENROLL NOW!!

Classes begin on **Monday, June 5, 2023**

Luna summer registration begins on **Wednesday, April 5, 2023**

The last day to add courses is **Friday, June 9, 2023**

To view classes, go to **luna.edu**

and click the **schedule of courses link**

Contact us at **505-454-2500**



Luna Community College
"Creating Opportunities For You!"

Community Education update

HITT Class (Michael Maes)

Mon - Thurs 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Location: Gerald Ortega Wellness Center

COST OF COURSE: \$50 a month OR \$5 a day

(Bonus weekend Hikes included)

Zumba (Lori Campos)

Tues and Thurs Noon - 1 p.m.

Location: Gerald Ortega Wellness Center

COST OF COURSE: \$10 a Month or \$5 a class

Zumba (Sonya Romero)

Mon and Wed 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Gerald Ortega Wellness Center

Location: TEC Bldg Room 110

COST OF COURSE: \$30 a Month or \$5 a class

Beginning June 12, 2023

Classical and Contemporary Guitar Lesson (John Arrellanes)

Tues and Thurs 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

\$15 a class

Location: School of Business Room 118

COST OF COURSE: \$40 per Half Hour

\$60 for 4 weeks

CALL 505-454-2541 for starting date

Sewing: Panel Quilt and Border (Teri Scott)

\$30 a person (plus \$15 to \$20 for supplies)

Thurs 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Location: School of Business, Room 116

July 6, 2023 to July 27, 2023

Sign Language for Beginner's by Chuck Griego

\$50 a person on Mon and Wed, from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

July 12, 2023 to August 16, 2023

Location: School of Business Room 101

Driver's Education by Kenneth Ortega

Sat and Sun 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

\$300

Location: STEM Dept. Tech 102

Beginning July 8, 2023

For More Information Contact:

Cynthia Branch

Community Education Director

cbranch@luna.edu

505-454-2541



FREE



Nursing Summer Camp

Open to high school students entering 10-12 grades who are interested in a nursing career
30 slots available

Camp Courses Include:
Medical terminology
Simulation Lab
CPR

Monday, July 10 - Thursday, July 13, 2023
8:30 am to 1:00 pm



Luna Community College
Allied Health Building
366 Luna Drive, Las Vegas NM 87701

Learn about nursing school from current nursing students.

Contact Yvonne Piña at 505-454-2525 or ypina@luna.edu to sign up



Media Education Center Auditorium CAN BE RENTED FOR AN EVENT!

Call... **505-454-5334**

Or Email...
mgriego@luna.edu



The Mora Veterans Committee had a flag-raising event at the Luna Community College Mora Site on Thursday, May 25. The Luna Mora Site will be utilized as a drop off place for flags that need to be retired due to being in disrepair. Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez attended the event.

Career and Technical Education Director

Luna Community College is looking for an energetic and creative individual who can continue building the college's successful Career and Technical Education programs as the Division Director. The CTE Director will have the opportunity to implement new programs and expand the currently successful programs in Welding, Cosmetology, Automotive Repair Technology and Collision Repair Technology. If you want to make a difference for students, for the community, for the economy and for New Mexico, this is the place for you!

To discuss the position in greater detail, contact the VP of Instruction and Student Services, Dr. Dani Day, at 505-454-2567 or email her at dday@luna.edu.

Wildfire Resiliency Training Center Director

Wildfires are growing worse every year - both bigger and more frequent. To combat the devastation, we need more people with the skills and expertise to mitigate the dangers and implement recovery for lands, forests, water and communities. Luna Community College is opening a Wildfire Resiliency Training Center. If you would like to lead this important work and apply for the Wildfire Resiliency Training Center Director position contact Dr. Day at 505-454-5378 to discuss the Center and the position in more detail.