



Luna student Mary Frances Bibb says college has been helpful

Luna student Mary Frances Bibb has not let the current Covid-19 pandemic stop her from continuing her education.

Bibb is taking a calculus II hybrid class with Dr. Rita Surdi.

“Having Dr. Surdi as my professor has made the transition easy,” says Bibb. “She’s an amazing professor. Having Luna here in Las Vegas is very helpful. Instructors provide more individual attention, which is important in education.”

Luna, like most colleges across the nation, is teaching mostly online sprinkled in with a few classes on campus.

“When the pandemic first hit, it was a very difficult transition not taking classes on campus,” says Bibb. “I prefer face-to-face classes, but I haven’t missed any school during this time.”

Luna’s math department has long been given high acclaim in the higher educational circles.

“I appreciate Luna, many students like coming up here for math classes,” says Bibb.

Bibb is one of those fortunate students who takes classes at both Luna and neighboring Highlands University. Bibb is majoring in forestry and one day would like to work in the animal rescue and rehabilitation arena.

“I like being around animals and being outside,” says Bibb. “I remember always wanting to do something like this since I was about three to five years old.”



Luna student Mary Frances Bibb is taking a calculus II hybrid class at Luna. As part of Covid-19 protocol, masks and social distancing are required.

Bibb says that the pandemic has allowed her to refocus on what is important in life.

“I’ve been able to spend more time with my family, I appreciate them so much,” says Bibb. “My mom (Anna) has gone to the moon and back for me. As a nurse in the community, she is my hero.”

Like many, Bibb says she is hopeful that the pandemic will soon come to an end.

“I miss being able to gather with my friends and not worry about none of us getting sick,” says Bibb. “Las Vegas is a resilient community. It’s awesome that Las Vegas has community college and a university.”

On advice to other students, Bibb has this to say: “Take care of your mental health, be safe and always maintain your social distancing.”

Luna Community College CDL students David Lucero and Gabriel Maestas look over some checkpoints before getting on the road with instructor Florencio Garcia.



Luna Community College CDL Instructor Florencio Garcia stands next to students Gabriel Maestas and David Lucero during a recent class. Garcia says that the structure of the CDL class consists of three weeks of theory classes and four weeks of lab classes. For more information on Luna's CDL classes, please call 505-454-2530.

“Creating Opportunities for You!”



The Luna Light will begin a photo of the edition contest. Luna students and employees are eligible to participate. The requirements are simple—photos have to be of nature with no people. Please e-mail your photo with your name and a small narrative describing it to jgallegos@luna.edu. One photo will be picked per edition. To start off the contest, here is the first photo taken by The Luna Light staff of a sunrise, clouds and mountains taken near the Bernal exit recently.

*“Creating Opportunities
for You!”*

For more information on Luna, please call

505-454-2550

Luna closer to Law Enforcement Training Center *Facility to offer state-of-art simulators*

Improving crucial skills and expertise for law enforcement personnel is one major objective of a planned training center coming to the Luna Community College campus in 2021.

The center took another step closer toward becoming reality on Friday, Jan. 8, as Luna administrators signed contracts with VirTra, Inc., manufacturers of two state-of-the-art simulators that will be key components of the center. Luna will lease a firearms training simulator and purchase a driving simulator from the Arizona-based company. The college's Board of Trustees approved those investments in its Dec. 8 meeting.

The college expects to introduce both simulators – which will be housed within a wing of Luna's Law Enforcement Training Center – during the Spring 2021 semester. Initial training opportunities will be available during the Summer 2021 term, with full implementation by the Fall 2021 semester, said interim President Dr. Kenneth Patterson, although some will be introduced sooner – possibly in time for the second eight weeks of the coming spring semester.

Luna's Law Enforcement Training Center will be able to provide training to agencies and individuals throughout the southwest United States, leading to a better-trained workforce for various police and other first responders, Patterson said. The firearms simulator, for example, places participants in a 300-degree environment with multiple



This photo, courtesy of VirTra, Inc., depicts a driving simulator that Luna will be using in its Law Enforcement Training Center.

training scenarios. Participants can learn and use de-escalation techniques as well as particular practice situations to develop their decision-making and proficiency, he noted.

“They can learn when to shoot, when not to shoot,” Patterson said. “The idea is to develop better trained law enforcement officers so these situations are

handled as well as they can be.”

This equipment also allows for a post-activity reconstruction of actual law enforcement incidents, such as those that took place Jan. 6 at the U.S. Capitol. The integration of extensive video footage will allow law enforcement training within a realistic simulation of the actual event, as it actually happened.

Such a center will dramatically improve accessibility to exceptional training for agencies and individuals across the region, Patterson said. He said Luna will be the only site in the nation offering these two simulators and training scenarios. The simulators additionally can be used as a component of Luna's growing Associate of Arts degree program in Criminal Justice and program coursework in the behavioral sciences. Patterson said the driving simulator may also provide opportunities for area partnerships in driver training.

Potential for federal funding exists, as the training center grows and develops.

Interested in nursing school?

TEAS

Nursing Entrance Exam

February 2021

Test dates



Scheduling for the following dates is taking place now.

Tuesday, Feb. 2	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 9	1:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 12	10 a.m.
Thursday, Feb. 18	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 23	1:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 26	10 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 nursing students assist in Covid-19 vaccinations



Luna Level 2 nursing students assisted in administering Covid-19 vaccines on Jan. 26 in Las Vegas with Luna Nursing Instructor Joy Shrum at the site for monitoring purposes. Students will continue to administer vaccines throughout the semester. Vaccinations were done through the New Mexico Department of Health. Pictured clockwise from top left are Amanda Baca, Jacklyn Ortega, Miranda Esquibel and Forrest Matthews. For more information on the Luna Nursing Program, please call 505-454-5321.

“Creating Opportunities for You!”

All fired up

Digital tablets aiding online instruction at Luna

Instructors and students at Luna are both benefitting from the use of Kindle Fire digital writing tablets paid for through grant funding from the Regional Development Corporation and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The Regional Development Corporation (RDC), a Taos-based 501c.3 non-profit organization, awarded a \$5,000 grant to Luna's STEM department in March 2020 that went toward the purchase of digital writing tablets for online instruction. With funds remaining from the original grant this semester, STEM Director Francisco Apodaca arranged for purchase of additional Fire tablets for full-time instructors across campus.

"We received a call from Mr. Val Alonso, Executive Director of RDC, last March telling us that the RDC had received funding from Los Alamos National Laboratory, to assist local entities with COVID-related disaster funding," Apodaca recalled. "I thought about how we could best utilize the funds and thought about our situation and having to go to an online format in teaching."

"I had watched a broadcast of a local school on the public television station, and I saw that the teacher stood in front of a white board and wrote out her lesson. You really had a hard time making out what they wrote on the board. So I had an idea about using a digital writing tablet in our online classes so that students would

see the handwritten notes on the screen."

Apodaca said that led to investing in the digital tablets, which were distributed to the department's instructors.

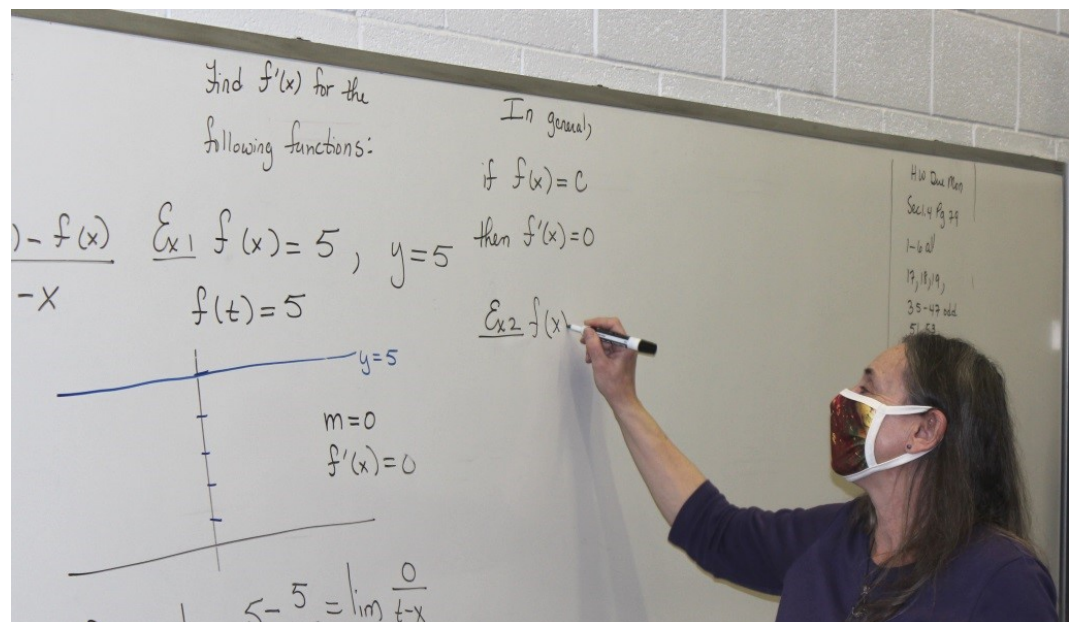
"It was a big hit," he said. "Our instructors used them to supplement their instruction, not only with writing their notes and lessons, but for formulas and working out mathematics problems (and for) editing their students' papers."

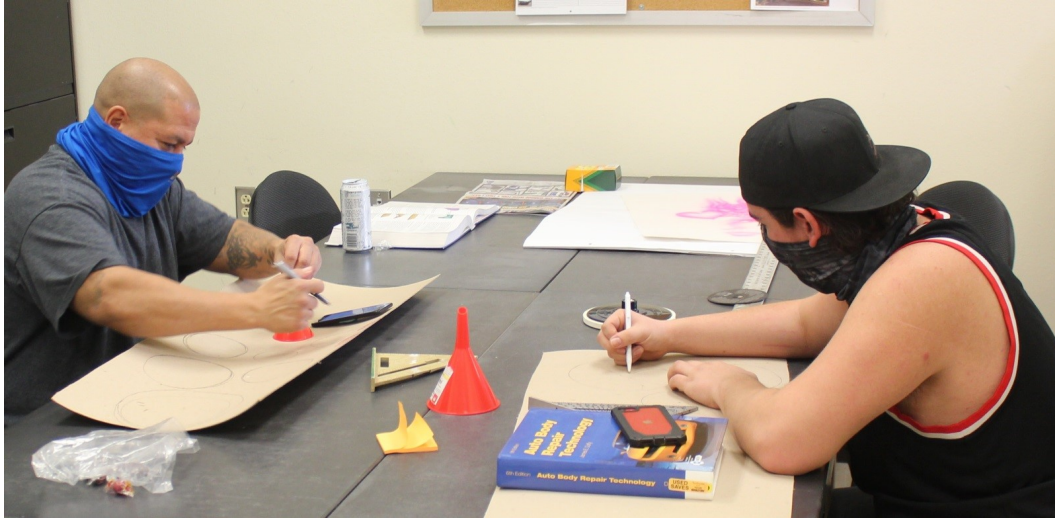
"At the end of the grant, we had money remaining in the grant," Apodaca said, "so I asked Mr. Alonso if we could use the remaining funds to purchase tablets for our full-time instructors and got his okay. We are hoping that our instructors can utilize the tablets, much in the same way they use the digital writing tablets -- that is, to supplement their classroom instruction."



Luna STEM Director Francisco Apodaca displays a Kindle Fire digital writing tablet.

Luna math professor Dr. Rita Surd writes equations on the board during a recent hybrid class. For more on the Luna's STEM Program, please call 505-454-2510.





Luna auto collision students Joshua Vigil and Rico Gallegos work on templates for their metal working projects during a recent class on campus. Students follow strict Covid-19 protocol which includes social distancing, mask wearing and sanitizing all tools after each use. For more information on Luna's Auto Collision program, please call 505-454-2530.

Join our team and help us serve our communities!

Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

FULL-TIME

- College & Career Readiness Institute faculty and staff ... opened Jan. 27, 2021
- Branch campus & location coordinator ... opened Jan. 15, 2021
- Custodian I (two positions available) ... opened Jan. 15, 2021

TEMPORARY PART-TIME

- Preschool substitute teacher/ caretaker ... opened Sept. 30, 2020

ADJUNCT (per course)

- Career & Technical Education — automotive instructor, Springer ... opened Nov. 21, 2019
- Career & Technical Education — welding instructor, Santa Rosa ... opened Oct. 31, 2019
- Career & Technical Education — CDL instructor ... opened August 28, 2019
- Career & Technical Education — collision repair instructor ... opened June 6, 2018



Most recent postings listed first. All positions open until filled unless otherwise noted. For more information on each position, please log on to our website at <https://www.luna.edu/jobs>



ONLINE & FREE!

We help you
take on
the
TEAS!

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



Free TEAS prep
Workshops

**NOW ONLINE; E-MAIL FOR
DETAILS OR TO SIGN UP**

WORKSHOP TOPIC	DATE
Intro & prep test	Feb. 16, 5 p.m.
Reading	Feb. 18, 5 p.m.
Math	Feb. 22, 5 p.m.
Science	Feb. 24, 6 p.m.
Anatomy & physiology	March 2, 5:30 p.m.
Conclusion	March 4, 5 p.m.

**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. Contact LCC Nursing Department for details.



**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 Cavanaugh, dkavanaugh@luna.edu.

Luna @ the Legislature



Feb. 5, 2021

The 55th Legislature's regular session began on Jan. 19 and will end at noon March 20. Deadline for introduction of legislation is Feb. 18. Due to COVID-19 precautions, access to the Roundhouse is limited this session while both chambers are employing both teleconferencing and social distancing to conduct business.

Luna @ The Legislature, an initiative of the Luna Community College Office of Public Relations, provides a weekly update on the session to inform the campus community.

Legislation of particular interest to Luna Community College, filed as of publication deadline:

House Bill 2 General Appropriations Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Patricia Lundstrom ... Among other appropriations, sets aside \$867 million from general fund, \$672,300 from other state funds, \$52.9 million from internal service funds and interagency transfers, and \$10.8 million from federal funds to higher education department for spending or allocation to higher education agencies in fiscal year 2022 ... Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee.

HB 25 LESC Study of Public & Postsecondary Education, introduced Jan. 4 by G. Andres Romero ... Tasks Legislative Education Study Committee to study issues pertaining to public schools and public postsecondary education in

New Mexico. Currently in House State Government, Elections & Indian Affairs Committee.

HB 43 Black Education Act, introduced Jan. 5 by Sheryl Williams Stapleton ... Requires development of racial sensitivity and anti-racism training for public education and higher education. Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee.

HB 83 Change Graduation Requirements, introduced Jan. 13 by G. Andres Romero ... Calls for high school students receiving opportunity to prepare next-step plans to include curricular and course options such as dual credit, career pathways, college prep. Currently in House State Government, Elections & Indian Affairs Committee.

HB 87 Yazzie Lawsuit Higher Ed Funding, introduced Jan. 14 by Derrick Lente ... Makes appropriations to state institutions of higher education and tribal colleges to comply with the Martinez & Yazzie v. New Mexico lawsuit by improving educational outcomes for certain students and families. Currently in House Education Committee.

HB 100 College & Career Readiness Systems, introduced Jan. 15 by Raymundo Lara ... Funds \$3 million for college and career readiness systems statewide and sets requirements to receive funding. Amended version currently in House

Appropriations & Finance Committee. (See also SB 107.)

HB 101 New Mexico Lottery Educational Assistance Act, introduced Jan. 15 by Raymundo Lara, Phelps Anderson, Randall Pettigrew, Steven Neville ... Adds certain other types of gaming as potential revenue sources for state lottery educational assistance program. Currently in House Education Committee.

HB 117 General Appropriations Act of 2021, introduced Jan. 19 by Patricia Lundstrom and Nathan Small ... Among other appropriations, funds \$6,984,200 for instruction and general purposes, \$1,866,600 other and \$453,200 athletics, along with \$483,800 student retention and completion, \$251,000 nurse expansion at Luna Community College. Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee. (See also SB 176.)

HB 131 Assistant Secretary of Hispanic Education, introduced Jan. 19 by Christine Trujillo ... Creates position of assistant secretary of Hispanic education in the Higher Education Department. Currently in House Education Committee.

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previous page



Feb. 5, 2021

HB 133 College Hunger Reduction Pilot Program, introduced Jan. 19 by Joanne Ferrary, Karen Bash, Melanie Stansbury ... Appropriates \$100,000 to Higher Education Department for pilot program. Currently in House Agriculture & Water Resources Committee.

HB 217 Public health emergency lottery scholarships, introduced Feb. 2 by Micaela Lara Cadena ... Amends eligibility requirements for student to receive legislative lottery scholarship during public health emergency. Currently in House Education Committee.

HB 218 Student Loan Bill of Rights Act, introduced Feb. 2 by Patricia Roybal Caballero and Katy Duhigg... Enacts regulations over student loan servicers. Currently in House Commerce & Economic Development Committee. (See also SB 164.)

Senate Bill 21 Retiree Health Care Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Roberto Gonzales and Natalie Figueroa ... Changes retiree health care act to conform to federal patient protection and Affordable Care Act. Amended version currently in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 39 Names of Finalists for Executive Positions, introduced Jan. 19 by Bill Tallman ... Exempts records for certain appointive executive position applicants from public inspection pursuant to the Inspection of Public Records Act. Currently in Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB 42 Increase to Educational Retirement Contributions, introduced Jan. 19 by Mimi Stewart ... Increases certain contributions to the educational retirement fund. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 77 Two Plus Two Pilot Program, introduced Jan. 19 by Gay Kernan ... Creates regional Two Plus Two pilot project to establish seamless transition from community college to university and measure student and institutional outcomes. Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 94 Student Athlete Endorsement Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Mark Moores, Bill O'Neill

and Antonio Maestas ... Changes limitations against student athletes earning compensation through use of their name, image or likeness. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 107 Career Readiness Systems Statewide, introduced Jan. 19 by Roberto Gonzales ... Funds \$3 million for college and career readiness systems statewide and sets requirements to receive funding. Currently in Senate Education Committee. (See also HB 100).

SB 135 Opportunity Scholarship Act, introduced Jan. 31, by Bill O'Neill and Joy Garratt ... Creates Opportunity Scholarship fund for two-year and four-year colleges and universities. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 148 Diversity Commission, introduced Jan. 31 by Mimi Stewart ... Creates Commission on Diversity, Equity and Excellence in Education. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 151 Educational Loan Repayment, introduced Jan. 31 by David Gallegos ... Enacts Instructional Support Provider Loan Repayment Act. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 158 Career Job Readiness Programs Funding, introduced Jan. 31 by Pete Campos ... Appropriates \$575,000 to Workforce Solutions Department for job readiness programs for youth and adults. Currently in Senate Taxation, Business & Transportation Committee.

SB 164 Student Loan Bill of Rights Act, introduced Jan. 31 Katy Duhigg... Enacts regulations over student loan servicers. Currently in Senate Taxation, Business & Transportation Committee. (See also HB 218.)

SB 165 NMFA Public Projects, introduced Jan. 31 by Shannon Pinto and Nancy Rodriguez

... Authorizes the New Mexico Finance Authority to make loans for public projects from the public project revolving fund available to various entities including Luna Community College for building, equipment, infrastructure, debt refinance, road, land acquisition, water, wastewater, water rights and solid waste projects. Currently in Senate Indian, Rural & Cultural Affairs Committee.

SB 169 Create Higher Ed Coordinating Council, introduced Jan. 31 by Roberto Gonzales ... Creates Higher Education Coordinating Council, gives HED sole authority to approve capital expenditures of state postsecondary institutions. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 176 General Appropriation Act of 2021, introduced Jan. 31 by George Munoz ... Among other appropriations, funds \$6,984,200 for instruction and general purposes, \$1,866,600 other and \$453,200 athletics, along with \$483,800 student retention and completion, \$251,000 nurse expansion at Luna Community College. Currently in Senate Finance Committee. (See also HB 117.)

SB 233 Student Bill of Rights, introduced Feb. 1 by Linda Lopez ... Enacts Student Bill of Rights for public school students and includes right to access counseling for vocational and other college information, among other rights. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 240 Vocational Training Scholarship Act, introduced Feb. 1 by Cliff Pirtle. Appropriates \$2.55 million and authorizes scholarships for career technical education courses at community colleges ... Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 253 Higher Education Department Libraries, introduced Feb. 1 by Shannon Pinto. Appropriates \$494,000 to HED for improvements in internet access in college and university libraries ... Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 263 Adult Workforce Diploma Program Act, introduced Feb. 1 by Craig Brandt ... Establishes program and contract guidelines for provision of workforce diploma services ... Currently in Senate Education Committee.

As of noon Feb. 5, 2021. Compiled by Dave Kavanaugh, LCC Communications & Marketing.

Meet your ACE tutors

Luna Community College Academic Center for Excellence tutors are available to help students with various classes and subjects.

Luna students may contact ACE coordinator Ray Varela at 505-454-5306 or rvarela@luna.edu to set up appointments or ask any questions

about ACE.

Here is a behind-the-scenes look at a couple of our ACE team members (fifth in a series):



Luna Light PERSONALITY PROFILE

ACE TUTOR: Angelina Jonson
HOMETOWN: Suitland, Maryland
SUBJECT(S): All areas
OTHER JOBS: Self-employed exercise physiologist and wellness consultant, home school and mom of four
EDUCATION: University of Maryland-College Park, Nova Southeastern University



What motivates you to tutor?

I enjoy assisting students in their understanding process. Typically when I work with a student, the issue is not that they cannot or do not understand the material; it's that they haven't figured out their personal best way to learn. I like helping them find that.

Whom do you admire the most and why? My two teenage sons. They have worked hard to become who they are in a very strange and intense time.

What is something about you that would surprise most people? I used to weigh over 300 lbs. and led a completely sedentary life. I made huge lifestyle changes after my oldest child was born, and those changes have led to dramatic weight loss and career changes.

FAVORITE MOVIE: Too many to list! I love sci-fi movies like "The Fifth Element" but also movies based on old romance novels like "Wuthering Heights," the Matrix series, a combination of both

FAVORITE TV SHOW: Superhero shows like "The Flash"

FAVORITE FOOD: Indian food, chips and salsa

FAVORITE SPORT: Olympic weightlifting, track

FAVORITE HOBBY: Hiking, painting, listening to music

FAVORITE MUSIC: All types; right now on a Kings of Leon and Mumford & Sons kick

FAVORITE THING ABOUT LUNA AND/OR VEGAS: So far I really love the wide open spaces and the friendly people I have met. I like living outside the city where there is hardly any light pollution, being able to see the stars really well.



Luna Light PERSONALITY PROFILE

ACE TUTOR: Julia Holguin
HOMETOWN: Wagon Mound, N.M.
SUBJECT(S): Allied Health, Humanities
OTHER JOBS: None
EDUCATION: Luna Community College



What motivates you to tutor students?

I am motivated to help students as much as I possibly can because of the help I was given and am still given as a student at LCC. It is great to know that we have resources that can help us to become successful in our studies.

Whom do you admire the most and why? I am very appreciative and have great admiration for the instructors and staff at LCC. Having classes only online has been tough for students; I can only imagine it being difficult for our instructors as well. They are all doing a great job and have been very resourceful in this difficult time.

FAVORITE FOOD: Chicken Alfredo

FAVORITE SPORT: Basketball

FAVORITE HOBBY: Travel

FAVORITE THING ABOUT LUNA AND/OR VEGAS: I love our community in Las Vegas. The culture and friendly faces of people whom we may not necessarily know yet have a connection with are some things I look forward to daily.