

The latest news from Luna Community College

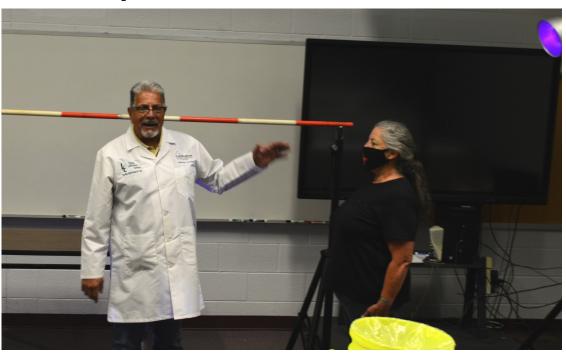
Second Volume 3, Issue 11

July 1, 2020

Topical storm

Luna Community College STEM Director Francisco Apodaca and STEM advisor Janice Varela prepare a demonstration during the Area Health **Education Center's Science & Health Career** Camp for area youngsters. Apodaca and Varela provided a visual demonstration of how far droplets from a cough will travel as part of **COVID-19** related content matter. The free online camp for middle schoolers was coordinated in part by **Elaine Luna and AHEC.**





Camp promotes health careers

Luna AHEC holds virtual summer camp for students

To show how important careers in health care and the sciences can be, organizers of a recent summer camp needed only to point to today's headlines.

Luna Community College and the Montanas del Norte Area Health Education Center treated middle school students to the Science & Health Career Camp the week of June 15-19. It was offered free of charge and held online, in keeping with social distancing guidelines.

The thrust of the camp was to expose students to the array of opportunities in the sciences, notably in health and health care, which have garnered particular attention in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to combat the virus.

Among the camp's educational features, Luna STEM representatives staged a simulated cough to demonstrate how far droplets can travel in the air. STEM Director Francisco Apodaca said they used

ultraviolet light to show transmissions from 8 to 12 feet. The visual representation provided a vivid reminder of how critical social distancing and other measures are in preventing transmission of coronavirus and other viruses.

Nineteen students, coming from such communities as Las Vegas, El Valle, Santa Rosa and Romeroville, took part in the camp.

"Initially, plans were under way for the camp to take place (on campus)," said AHEC Director Elaine

MORE: See Pages 14-15

HLC report team's work under way

Report due in July; accreditation visit planned this fall

Luna Community College is hoping to move its accreditation off probationary status later this year, and a collaborative effort led by a team of employees is leading the charge.

The team of faculty and staff members is drafting a Focused Visit

Report that will address each of the areas found to be out of compliance by the Higher Learning Commission, the Chicago-based organization under which Luna is accredited. The report is due in July, in advance of a scheduled HLC site visit this September.

Since June 2018, Luna has been on probation, an upgrade from the show-cause status the HLC had stipulated the previous fall.

Last year, the HLC Institutional Actions Council found that Luna had made progress in most areas, meeting requirements in 18 of 21 core component areas. But the HLC Board of Trustees voted to keep Luna on probation, allowing the college more time and opportunity to improve its performance in some regards and to demonstrate continued improvement in others.

Major changes have occurred since that decision was rendered in November 2019.

MORE: See Page 3



You're Invited!

NM FOOD ACCESS AND SECURITY SURVEY

Residents of New Mexico 18 and older! Take our 20 minute survey for the chance to win a \$25 gift card to a grocery store.

NMSU and UNM researchers want to understand food needs of New Mexicans during COVID-19 to help guide policy efforts.

Join the survey using the link or QR code below.

https://foodaccessandsecurityenglish.questionpro.com



Contact Stephanie Rogus at srogus@nmsu.edu or 817-253-9624 with questions.



iEstas invitado!

ENCUESTA DE ACCESO A LOS ALIMENTOS Y LA SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA DE NM

¡Residentes del estado de Nuevo México mayores de 18 años! Tomen nuestra encuesta de 20 minutos para la oportunidad de ganar una tarjeta de regalo de \$25 para una tienda de comestibles.

Investigadores de NMSU y UNM quieren comprender las necesidades alimenticias de los residentes del estado durante COVID-19 para ayudar guiar esfuerzos de política.

Completa la encuesta usando el enlace o el código QR.

https://acesnmsu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_87VroW6YXbFqqyx



Para mas informacion o preguntas contacte a Stephanie Rogus, srogus@nmsu.edu o 817-253-9624

HLC report

Continued from Page 2

Five of seven positions on the LCC Board of Trustees were attained by new candidates; the newly elected board began its collective work in January.

Recently, the board voted to change leadership, replacing Dr. Rolando Rael with interim President Dr. Kenneth Patterson — the college's vice president of instruction and student services — while launching a search for a new president.

As with the rest of the country, Luna has faced upheaval created by the COVID-19 pandemic through most of the first half of 2020. The college has been able to transition most of its classes and services to online and distance delivery methods.

In the meantime, more progress has been made — at least according to results of a campus climate survey — in establishing a climate of free expression and positive interrelationships among campus constituencies and the trustees. That is one of the findings shared by Breanna Gould, chairman of the LCC Shared Governance Council, in a recent online meeting.

Continued emphasis on transparency, implementation of an ambitious new shared governance structure, and new board policies and commitments, Gould said, "shows a collaborative effort truly taking place."

Areas of deficiency as determined by the HLC are specific components from Criterion Two, Integrity, Ethical & Responsible Conduct and Criterion Five, Resources, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness.

The HLC has previously determined that Luna meets or exceeds standards in the entirety of Criterion One, Mission; Criterion Three, Teaching & Learning, Quality, Resources & Support; and Criterion Four, Teaching & Learning, Evaluation & Improvement.

Luna's HLC report-writing team is compiling evidence to show the college is now fully compliant in components 2A, 5A and 5B and an assumed practice D₃ related to participation in College Scorecard. All stakeholders will be given the opportunity to review the report and give feedback to the team prior to submission in mid-July. A link to the report's working draft on the college website, luna.edu, will be made available by July 6, and members of the campus community and general public will be invited to submit feedback and input between July 6 and 10. An electronic form will be posted to allow for submission of feedback and input.

"Collaborative effort (is) truly taking place."

Breanna GouldShared Governance Council

"This is not a requirement of the report process," said Patterson, "but I think it is a great way to gather valuable campus and community input while offering a maximum amount of transparency."

The Focused Visit Report was originally due in May, with a site visit scheduled for summer, but the deadlines were pushed back due to the nationwide impact of COVID-19. Based in part on the report and a subsequent review by the HLC site -visit team, the HLC governing board is expected to make a determination on Luna's accreditation status in November.

As the college looks to secure its status, Luna remains accredited while on probation. The college has been continuously accredited by the HLC since 1982.

"It is an exciting time to be a part of the Luna community,"
Patterson said in a recent communique. "There is work ahead of us, but there is also great potential and promise. Now is the time to join together and work for the forward progression of Luna Community College."

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

Patterson: People our greatest resource

Interim president voices commitment to serving Luna

Having served as vice president of instruction and student services since September 2019, Dr. Kenneth Patterson was appointed interim president on June 9. Patterson spoke with The Luna Light about his new position and the state of the college.

What would you like to say to students, employees and community members?

There are great days ahead of Luna. Because we are a service-oriented community college, we have a very clear tie to the local community. As we focus on the mission of the institution, we will all continue working together to reach the potential while we continue our service to northeast New Mexico.

What is your overall view on Luna?

Luna is certainly a unique institution, and I feel some of those unique qualities extend beyond the institution itself. Our practical, hands-on nature naturally points us toward academic, professional and workforce training focused in practical experience. A great example of this is our Criminal Justice program, where students participate in simulated crime scene investigations and learn the criminal justice profession in a hands-on simulated environment. The structure of the college also makes it



"Our purpose for existence is community service..."

Dr. Kenneth PattersonInterim President

much easier for us to manage community demand for programs and the effectiveness of those programs. That works for everyone.

What are Luna's greatest strengths as an institution? What sets it apart from others?

Our close ties to the community are both our strengths and qualities that set us apart from other institutions. Our purpose for existence is community service, and I have had the chance to talk with multiple generations who have attended Luna. We provide the community with great opportunity for two-year academic programs, including transfer to four-year programs in other institutions. We also focus on professional education in a variety of vocational fields. Our vocational training is an exciting part of our work as we offer training in a variety of fields with high demand.

What do you see as the biggest challenge Luna faces right now? Luna's current challenges are mainly

financial. Over the years, the goal was to provide a quality educational at a low cost. Balancing revenues and expenses has not been a high priority, and as a result the financial reserves of the school have declined over the years. We are now in a period of reducing our expenditures and building more efficient financial and operational practices. State budget reductions in the face of COVID-19 are magnifying these issues. We're having to make some difficult decisions in regards to how we serve the community, but we don't want to see a reduction in our services, program quality, depth of offerings and service to the community.

What is the status of the college's HLC report, to be submitted in advance of the site visit in September?

Our Focused Visit Report will be submitted to the Higher Learning Commission, our regional

MORE: See Page 5

Patterson

Continued from Page 4

accrediting agency, in mid-July. This report addresses specific accreditation criteria concerns of the Commission. We are preparing a document with extensive evidence demonstrating that Luna complies with the HLC accreditation criteria. The report process sounds pretty dry but is encouraging as we review the great things our board of trustees, faculty, and staff have done in the past year to address areas of deficiency. Some of these changes are significant and place us among the nation's top community colleges in our practices.

Where would you like to see Luna in the next five to 10 years?

Well, it's not about me. The better question is where "we," as a community, want Luna to be in the next 10 years. In 10 years, I see Luna as a healthy and robust institution, offering quality academic and trades programs. In addition, I hope we all see some expanded and high-quality programs in areas such as trades, criminal justice and business. Opportunities come our way often, and I think we have to train ourselves to be open to the "what if..." of those opportunities. Where we are in 10 years is limited only by where we want to be. A challenge, yes, but really exciting.

Talk to us about some of the



Dr. Kenneth
Patterson talks
with criminal
justice student
Stephanie Carrillo
during a
simulation
exercise this past
fall. Patterson
said the program
is a fine example
of students
learning practical
knowledge.

attributes and experiences you bring to the position of interim president.

My formal education is in the field of higher education and adult learning, and a community college is the perfect place to see all of my training in action. We are actively looking to apply the theory of adult learning to create some pretty impressive experiences for students. I also have experience in working with higher education institutions in various accreditation issues. After having lived a number of years, I find that we all have life experiences that help us to be highly qualified in our work. I have a pretty diverse work experience in education, business, and hospital administration, and I'm constantly amazed at how much all of those life experiences come into play in higher education. I was also a student for many years. That perspective, alone, should impact everything we do at Luna.

Are there any significant changes you would like to implement? If so, what are

they?

Absolutely. I'd like to change the idea that mediocrity is acceptable. We must provide an affordable educational experience, while offering the highest quality academic and trades programs possible. But it doesn't end there. A high level of personalized customer service will ensure that our product is judged not only by its own quality, but also the quality with which we deliver it. That's the key to our success.

What do you appreciate the most about Luna?

The people. Our greatest resource is our personnel, and they consistently demonstrate their commitment to their work. That also applies to Las Vegas, a remarkable place with unlimited potential. Obviously Luna is where I belong, and Las Vegas is now my hometown.

Covid-19 Guidelines

CAMPUSES

Phase 1

In accordance with guidelines issued by the New Mexico Governor's Office and the state Higher Education Department, the following guidelines are required of all individuals during your time on the Luna campus. Entry into office and classrooms may be refused if you do not comply with this safety protocol. For the protection of yourself and others...

- Masks are required IN ALL PUBLIC AREAS.
 Employees may remove masks while alone in a closed office. Students must wear masks in classrooms and labs.
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly.
- · Utilize sanitizing stations.
- Maintain a 6-foot social distance from other individuals.
- Do not congregate in groups.
- A maximum of 5 individuals (socially distanced) is allowed in any group.





Prepared under the guidelines of the New Mexico Higher Education Department and the office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.



Overview of Campus Reopening Phases

Activities	Phase 1	Notes
Gathering	Size - 5 or less (limited exceptions with strict	protocols)
Opening Campus to Employees	. 60 40	**
Essential Operations/Services for Students and Critical Campus Operations	Remote Work Continues for Many, Essential Services Only, Staggered Schedules, Vulnerable Workers Stay Home	Strict Guidelines and Protocols (see postings)
Non Essential Operations and Services for Students and Employees	No Change - Remote Work	
Work Study Students, Graduate Students and other Student Employees	Remote Work, Social Distance, Special Protocols and Only Essential Work (Research)	
Opening Classes to Students	99	
Classes - Online Only	No Change - Online Classes Will Continue	
Classes - Flex (Online With Some Lab/Hands On or Small Class Time)	Online with Limited Hands On and Face To Face Classes (With Exception for Essential Workforce Training)	
Classes - Classroom, Face To Face	No Change - Closed	
Labs/Hands-On Instruction/CTE Classes	Only For Essential Programs With Strict Protocols	Essential Only
Clinicals	No Change - Essential Programs Only With Strict Guidelines and Protocols	Follow Guidelines of Clinical Site
Opening Campus Support Systems	to Students	
Libraries	No Change - Closed (Staff Only)	Virtual Reference Services Only
Testing CentersSatellite Locations	Online Where Possible Limited Services - Based On Capacity and Safety Limits	
Computer Labs	Only Essential Use With Strict Protocols - Additional Cleaning Protocols	
Gyms/Fitness Centers	No-Change - Closed (Staff Only)	
Low-Risk Recreation/Sports (Non-Contact Only)	Limited With Social Distancing and Protocol Required - No Indoor Sports or Support Activities	Follow Conference Guidelines
Bookstores	Curbside Pickup Only	Follow Business Guidelines
Other Operations and Services for	Students and Employees	
Business or Organizations Located on Campus (Preschool)	Follow Government Directives	
Business Travel For Students (Including Athletics) and Employees	No Change - No Travel	

Your feedback and input are welcome!

Luna Community College
is inviting members of the
campus community and general public
to view our Focused Visit Report to
the Higher Learning Commission.

Your feedback and input are welcome.

To view the report and submit your comments, please log on to luna.edu for link beginning July 6.

Submissions of feedback and input will be accepted

July 6-10.



"Creating
Opportunities
for You!"

Luna Community College seeks input for Focused Visit Report

Luna Community College is seeking participation from the campus community and general public as it prepares for Focused Site Visit with the Higher Learning Commission.

A team from the college is developing a written Focused Visit Report to demonstrate the college is addressing areas of concern identified by the HLC. The report is due in mid-July, in advance of the HLC's scheduled visit in early September. Based largely on the report and site visit, the HLC Board of Trustees will

make a ruling on the college's accreditation status.

Luna will post the final draft of its HLC report for a feedback and input period July 6-10. A link to the report and form for submission of feedback and input will be made available on the college website, luna.edu, by July 6. Members of the campus community and general public are encouraged to view the report and make any comments or suggestions using the online form.

Luna has been accredited continuously since 1982. In 2017,

the HLC issued a show-cause order requiring the college to respond. Based on the initial response by Luna, the show-cause order was lifted in June 2018, and the college was placed on probation. In November 2019, the HLC Board of Trustees recognized progress at Luna, noting compliance in 18 of 21 criterion areas; the Chicago-based board opted to continue the probationary period and allow the college more time to achieve full compliance.

If you plan to attend Luna in the Fall 2020 semester, now is the time to take the ACCUPLACER exam.

Students who have not taken the ACT/SAT or college-level courses, first-time freshmen, and first-time dual credit students will need to take the ACCUPLACER exam.

Please contact the Student Success Center at 505 -454-2549 or by e-mail at studentsuccess@luna.edu. The exam is free the first time and thereafter \$5 per section or \$10 for the full battery.

Luna to be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day

Luna Community
College in Las Vegas and its
campuses in Mora, Santa
Rosa and Springer will be
closed on Friday, July 3 in
observance of Independence
Day.

The college will resume its regular hours on Monday, July 6.



Luna Community College's outreach efforts typically include participation in various parades throughout the service area.

We are in the fourth quarter

B obby Bowden coached football at Florida State University from 1976 to 2009 and won two national titles.

I watched a documentary on him recently, and before he coached his first game at Florida State, he told everyone not to expect instant success. Bowden told anyone who was willing to listen to him that his team would lose and fall, especially at the beginning. However, the important thing, he said, was for no one to give up.

Luna Community College, along with the rest of this world, cannot give up either. We cannot give up on a miraculous cure or on a vaccine for COVID-19. Moreover, Luna must continue to work diligently on our accreditation issues. In both situations, we have to stay with it.

Although many situations are not ideal in today's world, we must continue to never let go of hope, knowing that one day soon, we all will come out victorious.

Luna is currently in the last phases of our report that is due to the Higher Learning Commission very soon. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is one of several regional accreditors that accredit By Jesse Gallegos

A Different Perspective

colleges and universities.

After we turn in the report, the college will have a visit from the HLC. After this, we wait and see what they tell us in November.

It is not that simple. Nothing usually is. With everything going on around us, we cannot forget how critical of a time it is for Luna.

Many might say that I repeat the message of hope and working together too much. Perhaps something like this is worth repeating.

Regardless of the circumstances before us, we cannot lose sight of the ultimate prize — for Luna to receive a clean bill of health from the HLC — and this is for them to lift our probationary status.

Along with countless others, I have said from the beginning of this trek, back in November of 2017, that Luna is too important not to fight for. Sure, it is important for people like me and other employees who have grown fond of working here. But the struggle is not just about us; more

importantly, it is for the thousands of students Luna has served and the thousands more it will educate in the coming years.

At some point, each of us will leave Luna, but let us leave it a better place for those who want to come and get an education here to make a better life for themselves and their families. Sometimes, we can look at the glass as half-empty. In reality, the glass is half-full because of the students we help on a day-in-day-out basis. In simple terms, our students and this part of the state need a healthy Luna for today and for tomorrow. The struggles that we have will be minimal when we look at the vision of seeing all those students for years to come walking the line for graduation, knowing that they earned a degree or certificate and have a brighter future — in part because of us.

We can finish the race. It is already the fourth quarter and we have called our last timeout. As Coach Bowden said, there is no guarantee for instant success, but victory is around the corner. We can only achieve it if we have hope and work together.

Begin your journey with us this fall.

No. 1 in affordability

Luna Community College offers you
quality academic and vocational programs
that can help you land a great job or give you
a strong start to your higher education career.
And you won't have to break the bank to do it.
The U.S. Department of Education's
College Scorecard data shows Luna to be
the most affordable* college option in New Mexico.
Knowledgeable faculty. Caring, committed support staff.
Student services to help you succeed. Low tuition rates
and financial aid options to help you pay for school.
Visit us at luna.edu and learn how
we can help you turn your dreams into reality.

* Based on comparison, average annual cost of attendance, College Scorecard (collegescorecard.ed.gov)







On campus or off, it's easy to shape your future.

Every 10 years, the United States counts everyone living in the country, including college students like you. Your response to the 2020 Census will help make sure communities across the nation are accurately funded and represented for the next decade.

Responding is easy.

- If you live in off-campus housing that is not owned, leased, or managed by your college or university, such as a private house that you share with other students or a privately owned apartment, you can respond online, by phone, or by mail beginning in mid-March 2020. You should count yourself at your off-campus address, even if you spend time somewhere else during school breaks.
- If you live in on-campus student housing like residence halls, off-campus residence halls, or other student housing facilities that are owned, leased, or managed by your college or university, U.S. Census Bureau employees will work with representatives from your building to ensure that you are counted. You may be asked to complete an individual census form.
-) If you are an international student, the same rules apply.

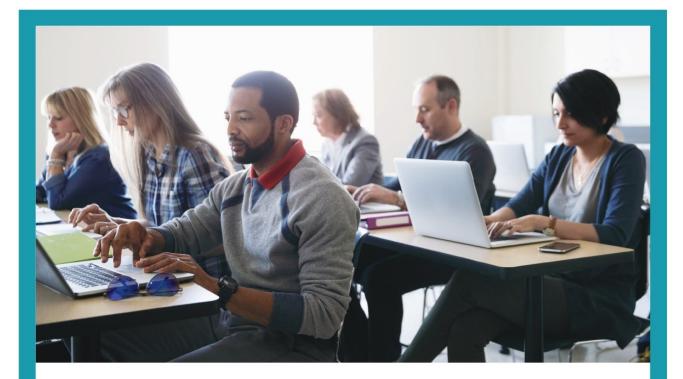
For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-OP-HE-EN-320

Shape your future START HERE >

Census 2020



Responding is important.

The 2020 Census will influence community funding and congressional representation. Information collected in the census will inform the allocation of more than \$675 billion in federal funds for states and communities each year. That includes money for things like:

- > Federal Pell Grants
- Adult education grants
- > Agriculture, science, and engineering education
- > Student wellness programs
- > The Medical Assistance Program
- > Community mental health services

Responding is safe.

Your personal information is kept confidential by law, and your responses can only be used to produce statistics.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-OP-HE-EN-320

Shape your future START HERE > Census 2020

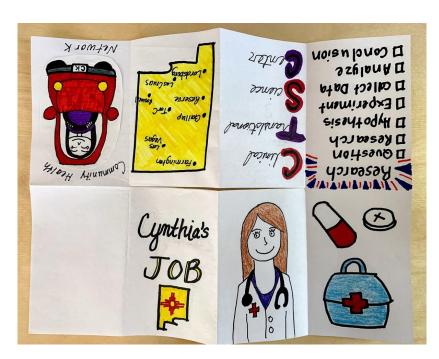


Left: Participants in the AHEC virtual camp received commemorative camp T-shirts.

Below: Camp participants created storybooks in which they could document daily learning activities. They wrapped up the weeklong camp by sharing their storybooks with the group.







Virtual camp

Continued from Page 1

Luna. "Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we acted quickly to convert to an online virtual program. It was somewhat of a challenge, but we knew the camp had to move forward. We knew that vouth had become accustomed to online learning, so they adjusted quickly to the Zoom sessions. They mastered the online chat box. During each session they were busy putting in messages, comments and questions in the box. The presenters were please with how interactive the sessions were. Some of the participants experienced momentary WiFi connection issues during some of the sessions, but for the most part it went well. They used desktop computers, laptops and in some cases accessed on their phones for each session."

Each student created a storybook on the first day of camp, and each day every student added camp highlights about what they learned that day. On the last day of camp, students had an opportunity to deliver short presentations on their storybooks and what they learned.

Among the comments received from student participants:

"I learned a lot about how to stay healthy and how to stay safe during COVID."

"I want to try a career in health."

"I can't believe the camp is over. I wish we had more days."

AHEC is considering the possibility of partnering to hold another camp in the future.

"It was wonderful to experience all of our youth engaged in online learning activities and eager to participate each day," said Elaine Luna. "We could not have accomplished this virtual camp without the tremendous support from everyone."

Elaine Luna credited the success of the camp to a collaborative effort with multiple partners. Adjunct faculty member Rebecca Ram served as camp coordinator, and the lead team included Las Vegas City Schools teachers Donna Ortiz and Judith Trujillo as well as Luna herself. Presenters included Cynthia Killbough, community health specialist with the UNM Clinical & Translational Science Center; Dr. Eric Griffin, NMHU assistant professor in biology; Matthew Luna, recycle artists and Rubik's Cube enthusiast; Robertson High students Maya Luu, Amanda Bustamante, Kavla DeVries, Ashlynn Trujillo, Shayla Hillis and Tessa Ortiz; Luna STEM Director Francisco Apodaca, STEM advisor Janice Varela; Luna **Admissions Director Moses** Marquez. The RHS Dream Makers Health Career Club members served as moderators for each session. They included Amanda Bustamante, Leah Vigil, Liana Fernandez, Mickey Sena

"I wish we had more days (of camp) ..."

Student participant in AHEC Science & Health Career Camp for middle school students

and Andres Grano.

Key to the camp was funding from the New Mexico state legislature through the Center for Health Innovation for the purpose of engaging youth in health career awareness and STEM activities. Rep. Tomas Salazar of San Miguel County was "instrumental" in supporting legislation for comprehensive health careers opportunity programs, said Elaine Luna.

"I feel so honored to have been a part of the virtual summer camp as a presenter," said Killough, who was a featured part of day one. "The students were so responsive, asked really great questions, and made the experience as a whole so memorable. They are a smart, amazing, dedicated group of students. I can't wait to hear all about their accomplishments. It was also a joy to work with Ms. Luna and Ms. Ram. I witnessed firsthand the dedicated time and effort they put into planning the virtual camp months in advance. This was really such a great experience and made my summer."

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.

Count students accurately in Census

The U.S. Census Bureau is reaching out to colleges and universities with significant off-campus student populations to help ensure they are counted in the right place in the 2020 Census. Recently, Director Dr. Steven Dillingham sent a letter to college and university presidents asking them to provide roster information for off-campus students. This information allows the Census Bureau to count the students where they would have

been staying on April 1, 2020, even if they went home early due to a school closure or shift to distance learning.

Dr. Dillingham thanked administrators for their help in ensuring a complete and accurate count of college students, as an accurate count is important to every community's funding, political representation and planning decisions. The census counts people where they live and sleep most of the

time, and that includes college students. With many students having left their college campuses because of school closures before census questionnaires were delivered, the Census Bureau needs help counting students where they would have been living and sleeping as of April 1, 2020.

As of June 30, 50.5 percent of New Mexico households have responded to the census.

The summer semester is here, and the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) is still available to help in all classes. All Luna classes remain online, and the ACE is as well. Tutors will be continuing with online services throughout the summer semester.

Contact Ray Varela, ACE Coordinator, at 505-454-5306 or rvarela@luna.edu, or one of our tutors for setting up an appointment or any other information.

SUMMER



Tutor	Subject	Email
Jonathan	Humanities	jolujan@luna.edu
Sergio	Humanities	shartshorne@luna.edu
Auritha	Math	aroybal@luna.edu
Adan	Math & Science	admartinez@luna.edu