

The Luna Light



"Creating Opportunities for You!"

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Luna to host forums in advance of HLC visit

Students, employees and community invited

Students, faculty, staff and members of the community are invited to a series of informational forums as Luna Community College prepares for a site visit by its accrediting agency, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

A team of reviewers from the HLC is scheduled to visit the Las Vegas campus March 25-27. At stake is Luna's accreditation, which was upgraded from show-cause status to pro-

bation this past summer. The college has been working on required assurance arguments that address issues raised by the original show-cause order in advance of the HLC site visit. Reviewers will meet with various campus constituencies over two days and make a recommendation as to Luna's accreditation status. The HLC will make its final determination by November.

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Luna's Laura Sandoval recognized at State Capitol

Luna Community College student Laura Sandoval, along with other students from various two-year colleges throughout the state, was recognized recently at the State Capitol for earning Phi Theta Kappa New Mexico All-State Academic Team honors.

"It feels like all the hard work is paying off," said Sandoval. "There is so much on my mind that I haven't processed everything yet."

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Luna student Laura Sandoval gets a hug from Dr. Sharon Lalla, interim president and vice president for instruction. Also pictured is Dr. Twila Quintana, Luna's Phi Theta Kappa advisor.

Forums...

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With all that in mind, Luna is hosting the following informational forums, each focused on different aspects of the college's operations (and the criteria considered in accreditation). Each forum will be held twice to allow for more participation. All forums will be held at the LCC Nursing Auditorium in the Allied Health Building.

The schedule:

* Criterion 1, Mission, & Criterion 2, Integrity, Ethical and Responsible Conduct (forum led by staff)

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m. to noon and 2 to 3 p.m.

* Criterion 5, Resources, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness (forum led by staff and administration)

Friday, March 1, 11 a.m. to noon and 2 to 3 p.m.

* Criterion 3, Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources and Support, & Criterion 4, Evaluation and Improvement (forum led by faculty)

Friday, March 8, 11 a.m. to noon and 2 to 3 p.m.

Additionally, a forum designed specifically to update Luna students will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6.

Luna, which is the only community college in northeastern New Mexico, has been accredited by the HLC since 1982. The college was issued a show-cause order by the HLC in November 2017. Luna administration and employees worked to remedy and correct issues of non-compliance cited in the order, and in July 2018, the order was lifted, with the college placed on probationary status.

More information on Luna's accreditation can be accessed via the HLC website, hlcommission.org.

Luna Community College is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will host a Probation visit March 25-27, 2019, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet HLC's criteria for accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college to the following address: <https://old.luna.edu/feedback/>

Luna part of Las Vegas Day and Night at the state legislature Feb. 28

"Unity Builds Community" is this year's theme for the annual Las Vegas Day and Night at the Legislature on Thursday, Feb. 28.

Luna Community College, New Mexico Highlands University and San Miguel County have continuously partnered to showcase the magnificence of each municipality and institution. This year, Pecos Village and Mora County are partnering to bring the broader "Las Vegas, San Miguel County, Village of Pecos and Mora County Day and Night" to the state capital.

Both the House and Senate will recognize this dedicated day with proclamations. Numerous organizations from each of the communities will have information and exhibits from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the East and West Halls of the Rotunda.

Various representatives from the organizations will speak at the Rotunda from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and between 1 and 2 p.m. The evening events will take place at La Fonda in the Lumpkins Ballroom from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Senators, representatives, Lt. Gov. Howie Morales, and many other

local and state dignitaries are scheduled to speak. Entertainment includes Sarah Flores' dance group, Mariachi Vaqueros de NMHU, Mariachi Cardenal, Gabriel Serna and Gonzalo. The event is open to the public, and all are invited.

Several students from Jason Killian's criminal justice class will be attending the evening event at La Fonda. Any students or employees who are interested should sign up with Amanda Lucero at Humanities. Limited seating on a shuttle van will be available.

The next staff advisory senate meeting is at 9 a.m. on Feb. 28 in the Student Services Board Room.

Laura Sandoval...

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Sandoval is a first-year nursing student, and this is her second stint at Luna. She graduated from Luna in 2012 with a Fire Science degree. During her time away from Luna, Sandoval worked as a firefighter and as an emergency medical technician for Superior Ambulance, and she currently works for Mora County Ambulance. These two jobs influenced her to apply to nursing school.

“I want to help people,” said Sandoval. “I want to make them feel better. I love the nursing program. It’s challenging, but I love challenges.”

Sandoval, has a 3.8 grade point average and 150 combined college credits from Luna, New Mexico Highlands University and Santa Fe Community College.

“I really like Luna because of the small class sizes; everyone is friendly, and people go out of their way to help you succeed,” said Sandoval. “Luna’s colors are similar to my high school colors, which are turquoise and black.”

Sandoval is a 2010 Del Norte High School graduate. She came to Luna on a softball scholarship.

“What really kept me in the area was joining the Gallinas Volunteer Fire Department and the great friends I met,” said Sandoval. “It’s really like having a second family.”

Now, her circle of friends consists of her fellow nursing classmates.

“We’ve become a family and help each other out in study groups,” said Sandoval.

Sandoval said the tougher the situation, the more comfortable she is.

“I want to be the head nurse in the emergency room,” said Sandoval “I don’t mind the adrenalin rush when people are at their most in need.”

Eventually Sandoval wants to be an airlift nurse.

“She is a very fair and balanced person and looks at the bigger picture,” said Luna Nursing Director Maxine Hughes. “She’s very smart and dedicated and is



Luna student Laura Sandoval was one of several two-year college students recognized at the State Capitol for earning Phi Theta Kappa New Mexico All-State Academic Team honors. Pictured (from left) are Luna Phi Theta Kappa advisor Dr. Twila Quintana, Luna Phi Theta Kappa advisor Cindy Armijo, Sandoval and Luna interim President Dr. Sharon Lalla.

a clear-thinking person. She will be a very compassionate and a strong advocate for her patients. She is very caring. She’s calm, cool and collected and can think under pressure.”

Sandoval’s talents will probably stay local — at least in the short term.

“There is also a shortage of nurses here; I will be able to help out with that,” said Sandoval.

“She’s calm, cool and collected and can think under pressure.”

Maxine Hughes, Luna nursing director, on Laura Sandoval

Please join us for these important campus information forums.

**Forum: Criteria 1 & 2
Mission; Integrity, Ethical
and Responsible Conduct**
(led by staff)

Wednesday, Feb. 27

11 a.m. to noon
&
2 to 3 p.m.

Nursing Auditorium

**Forum: Criterion 5
Resources, Planning and
Institutional Effectiveness**
(led by staff and
administration)

Friday, March 1

11 a.m. to noon
&
2 to 3 p.m.

Nursing Auditorium

**Forum: Criteria 3 & 4
Teaching and Learning Quality,
Resources and Support;
Evaluation and Improvement**
(led by faculty)

Friday, March 8

11 a.m. to noon
&
2 to 3 p.m.

Nursing Auditorium

As Luna Community College works to maintain its accreditation, improve and move forward from probationary status, we present these opportunities for the campus community to learn about progress in each of these key areas emphasized by the Higher Learning Commission. In addition to getting informed, participants have a chance to provide feedback as the college prepares for the HLC's visit to campus March 25-27. Each forum will be held twice for your convenience. Students, employees and community members are welcome.



Attention, Luna students!

Join us for an informational update on Luna and the accreditation process, presented by interim President Dr. Sharon Lalla.

FREE LUNCH INCLUDED!

Wednesday, March 6
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Nursing Auditorium

As Luna Community College works to maintain its accreditation, improve and move forward from probationary status, we present these opportunities for the campus community to learn about progress in each of these key areas emphasized by the Higher Learning Commission. In addition to getting informed, participants have a chance to provide feedback as the college prepares for the HLC's visit to campus March 25-27.



Tough games for Rough Riders

Luna Community College softball fell 15-7 at Trinidad State Junior College on Monday in Trinidad, Colo.

The Trojans, also won the nightcap 27-18. Luna (2-7) is scheduled to host Air Force Academy's junior varsity at 11 a.m. Saturday at West Las Vegas softball field and host Texas-Rio Grande Valley at 3 p.m. On Sunday, the Riders play a twinbill vs. the Air Force team.

Luna baseball dropped three games to Dodge City Community College over the weekend in Canyon, Texas. Dodge City prevailed 18-3 on Saturday, 6-1 and 17-7 on Sunday. The Rough Riders (3-12) will host Western Oklahoma State College in a twinbill beginning at noon Saturday. The teams will play again on Sunday afternoon.