

# Luna active as session opens

## Higher ed funding among key priorities to be tackled

The 54th New Mexico Legislature kicked off Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the state capitol, and funding for higher education appears to be a key talking point for this 30-day session.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham used her first State of the State address to list her planned initiatives — including the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship, which would pay for college tuition and fees for recent high school graduates and returning community college students.

The Legislative Finance Committee countered with its own recommendation — a more targeted, need-based funding package that boosts money for the existing lottery scholarship while adding funds in other grant and scholarship areas.

However lawmakers decide to alter higher education funding, it figures to have an impact for Luna Community College.

On even-numbered years like 2020, the legislature holds 30-day sessions, which means budget items take precedence for lawmakers. But the legislature is also expected to act on a number of other bills during the session, which runs through noon



**Luna President Dr. Rolando Rael, Sen. Pete Campos (D-Colfax, Guadalupe, Harding, Mora, Quay, San Miguel, Taos) and Luna’s Francisco Apodaca discuss the opening of the 54th state legislature.**



**Luna’s Francisco Apodaca and President Rael meet with Sen. Liz Stefanics (D-Bernalillo, Lincoln, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Torrance, Valencia) and Rep. Martin Zamora (R-Curry, DeBaca, Guadalupe, Roosevelt, San Miguel) inside the Roundhouse.**



Thursday, Feb. 20.

Luna is seeking capital outlay funds to upgrade its aging HVAC systems on campus, among other priority needs.

Over the first two days of the

session, Luna has had a contingent in Santa Fe, meeting with legislators and working to ensure the college’s funding requests are considered and gaining insights from lawmakers on ways to better serve the region.

# Hector Hernandez here Feb. 13

## Secret Service agent with Las Vegas ties to visit Luna campus

**H**ector Hernandez has been considered an underdog all his life. Perhaps that motivation has prompted him to be successful in almost anything he sets his sights on.

Hernandez has been a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service for 28 years and has worked in the prestigious Presidential Protective Division in Washington, D.C., where he protected the likes of Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama and most recently Vice President Mike Pence.

“I still feel like I have a lot to prove,” says Hernandez. “My entire life I have always been an underdog. I’ve always put in a lot of extra work.”

Hernandez is scheduled to give a motivational talk and answer questions from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, at Luna’s Media Arts Auditorium. He is also scheduled to have a clinic with West Las Vegas High wrestlers that afternoon and give another motivation talk at WLWV on the 14th. Hernandez’ talk at Luna is open to everyone.

His connection to this area was through the New Mexico Highlands University wrestling program. When he was a high school senior in El Paso, most major college programs overlooked him. Some, like the University of Arizona and University of Michigan, offered Hernandez partial scholarships, but only Highlands’ head coach, Steve Sanchez, offered him a full scholarship.

In 1987, Hernandez rewarded Sanchez for having the confidence to believe in him, winning the NAIA championship in the heavyweight



**Veteran Secret Service agent Hector Hernandez, left, accompanies then-President Barack Obama for a public event.**

division, the first in school history. He was selected to represent the United States on a U.S. national team, which competed in Russia.

“When I showed up in Las Vegas, I had something to prove,” says Hernandez. “I decided I was going to adopt this city as my own. I had the support of the entire student body, and I always had faith in God. That year, Coach Sanchez’ son Michael died in a car accident, and I dedicated the season to him. This meant much more to me than a gold medal.”

While at Highlands, Hernandez earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a master of arts degree in sociology.

“My talk will be to remind young people to never give up and always remember they are never out of the fight,” says Hernandez. “Success is not an easy road; you have to prepare for it.”

In 2014, he was selected as a candidate for the Department of Homeland Security, Senior Executive

Service Candidate Development Program. After successfully completing the program, he was certified and joined the Senior Executive Service ranks. In 2016, he was appointed as the Deputy Special Agent in charge on the Vice Presidential Protective Division. In August 2018, he was promoted to Special Agent in charge on the Vice Presidential Protective Division. After successfully completing this assignment, he was promoted to Deputy Assistant Director in the Office of Training, where he is currently assigned.

Even with all his success, including the fact that he is the first Hispanic to be in charge of the Vice Presidential Protective Division, Hernandez says he still considers himself an underdog.

“There’s still a lot to be done,” says Hernandez. “I’m always trying to set the tone for minorities, including women. Every promotion I’ve ever had was due to hard work.”

# LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO LCC

**House Bill 2** ... General Appropriation Act, includes statewide higher education funding with \$913.6 million from general fund, \$664,700 from other state funds, \$51.5 million from internal service funds and interagency transfers, and \$4.9 million from federal funds ... Introduced by Rep. Patricia Lundstrom; currently in House Appropriations & Finance

**House Bill 37** ... introduces specific contract provisions, terms and limitations for college presidents and athletics staff... Introduced by Rep. William Rehm; currently in House Rules & Order

**House Bill 45** ... increases rates of employee and employer contributions to the Retiree Health care fund, transfers \$12.4 million from General Fund to Retiree Health Care Fund ... Introduced by Rep. Tomas Salazar and Rep. Raymundo Lara; currently scheduled for House Labor, Veterans & Military Affairs

**House Bill 46** ... requires automatic contribution increases from Alternative Retirement Plan participants to the Educational Retirement Fund, equal to any statutory increase in employer contributions from local administrative units; transfers \$50 million from General Fund to ERF plus equivalent of 1 percent of participant annual salaries ... Introduced by Rep. Tomas Salazar; currently in House Labor, Veterans & Military Affairs

**House Bill 69** ... establishes pilot program to reduce college hunger; amount \$100,000 ... Introduced by Rep. Joanne Ferrary and Rep. Christine Trujillo; currently in House Education

**House Bill 83** ... creates an early childhood education and care program fund; initial amount \$20 million (see also SB 3)... Introduced by Rep. Doreen Gallegos and Sen. John Arthur Smith; currently in House Education

**House Bill 88** ... funds adult basic education services, including students involved in the criminal justice system; total amount \$10 million ... Introduced by Rep. Christine Trujillo; currently in House Education

**House Bill 116** ... sets licensing requirements for student loan servicers ... Introduced by Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero; currently in House Rules & Order

**House Bill 136** ... creates statewide college

readiness program for American Indian students; amount \$650,000 ... Introduced by Rep. Derrick Lente; currently in House Education

**House Bill 152** ... creates fund for adult education services; amount: \$6 million (see also SB 112) ... Introduced by Rep. Christine Trujillo; currently in House Education

**House Bill 172** ... provides funding for colleges to offset costs of waiving tuition for high school dual-credit students; amount: \$10 million (see also SB 37) ... Introduced by Rep. Nathan Small; currently in House Education

**House Bill 177** ... creates regional partnership project for teacher preparation among Pojoaque Valley schools, NMHU and Los Alamos National Lab ... Introduced by Rep. Andrea Romero; currently in House Education

**House Bill 180** ... provides for a loan repayment program for public school instructional support providers ... Introduced by Rep. David Gallegos; currently in House Rules & Order

**House Bill 189** ... general appropriations act of 2020, includes \$10,434,200 in Luna Community College funding as follows: \$7,273,000 instruction and general, 497,000 athletics and 1,866,000 for other on main campus; \$530,600 for student retention and completion and \$267,000 for nurse expansion program ... Introduced by Rep. Joseph Sanchez and Rep. Patricia Lundstrom; currently in House Appropriations & Finance

**House Bill 197** ... appropriates \$1 million for a demonstration project to establish and support early childhood education programs in rural communities ... Introduced by Rep. Rodolpho Martinez; currently in House Education

**House Bill 200** ... provides for income tax credit for early childhood workers ... Introduced by Rep. Micaela Lara Cadena and Rep. Rebecca Dow; currently in House Consumer & Public Affairs

**House Bill 240** ... provides for scholars program for doctorates in bilingual education and teaching on college level in New Mexico; amount: \$2 million over five years ... Introduced by Rep. Tomas Salazar; currently in House Education

**House Memorial 7** ... declares Feb. 15 New Mexico Public Educator Appreciation Day (see also SM 2) ... Introduced by Rep. Joy Garrett

**Senate Bill 3** ... creates an early childhood education and care program fund; amount \$320 million (see also HB 83)... Introduced by Rep. Doreen Gallegos and Sen. John Arthur Smith; scheduled for Senate Education



**Senate Bill 30** ... creates a research grants closing fund for state colleges and universities in the amount of \$10 million ... Introduced by Sen. William Soules; currently in Senate Committees

**Senate Bill 36** ... Creates teacher preparation task force ...

Introduced by Sen. William Soules; currently in Senate Committees

**Senate Bill 37** ... provides funding for colleges to offset costs of waiving tuition for high school dual-credit students; amount: \$10 million (see also HB 172)... Introduced by Sen. William Soules; currently in Senate Education

**Senate Bill 38** ... creates commission on equity and excellence in education; amount \$50,000 ... Introduced by Sen. Mimi Stewart; currently in Senate Committees

**Senate Bill 65** ... increases standard per diem rate for public officers and employees to \$131 ... Introduced by Sen. Pat Woods and Sen. Ron Griggs; currently in Senate Committees

**Senate Bill 89** ... creates scholarship program for bilingual teachers in exchange for service; appropriates \$1 million ... Introduced by Sen. William Soules; currently in Senate Committees

**Senate Bill 111** ... amends Educational Retirement Act to modify conditions of retirement for certain retirees who return to work ... Introduced by Sen. Mimi Stewart; currently in Senate Committees

**Senate Bill 112** ... creates fund for adult education services; amount: \$6.2 million (See also HB 152) ... Introduced by Sen. Michael Padilla; currently in Senate Committees

**Senate Bill 147** ... authorizes community colleges to award tuition scholarships in vocational training programs; amount: \$2.55 million a year ... Introduced by Sen. Cliff Pirtle; currently in Senate Committees

**Senate Memorial 2** ... declares Feb. 15 New Mexico Public Educator Appreciation Day (see also SM 2) ... Introduced by Sen. Mimi Stewart

## 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](http://collegescorecard.ed.gov)

## Agribusiness in spotlight



**Sen. Pete Campos, Luna President Dr. Rolando Rael, area agribusiness and local business representatives attended a Strategic Doing session at the Media Education Center on the LCC campus. Isabella Pedicon of New Mexico State University Arrowhead Center leads a community discussion on agribusiness and how best to stimulate agribusiness initiatives in the region.**

## Nursing helps with TEAS prep

One of the first major hurdles for students looking to go into nursing is the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) required for admission into the nursing program.

Luna Community College is doing what it can to help students clear that hurdle.

The LCC Nursing Department is offering a free TEAS prep course covering the academic subjects included in the TEAS. Additionally, thanks to grant funding, the department is also offering an incentive for students who take the entire TEAS prep course, paying for one TEAS exam fee for each

participant, provided they fulfill all obligations.

In order to be eligible for the fee waiver, the participant must attend all six workshops within the same sequence, take all required unit exams and complete a scholarship incentive form.

The first course sequence runs from Feb. 18 to March 5. The second sequence runs from March 31 to April 16. Participants need only attend one sequence but must attend all classes within that sequence to be eligible for the fee waiver.

The topics to be covered include pre-test and test-taking strategies,

reading, math, anatomy and physiology, life science, and post-test and skills review.

Classes will be held 5-7 p.m. At the LCC Technology Building, room 126-B. The building is adjacent and just north of the administration building.

Sequence 1 classes: Feb. 18, Feb. 20, Feb. 24, Feb. 26, March 3, March 5.

Sequence 2 classes: March 31, April 2, April 6, April 8, April 14, April 16.

Contact Yvonne Pina, [ypina@luna.edu](mailto:ypina@luna.edu), or 505-454-2525, for more information.

# LV Day at Legislature Feb. 17

Luna Community College will join other local entities in presenting for Las Vegas Day at the Legislature on Monday, Feb. 17.

The college will have representatives greeting visitors at a table set up in the state capitol from 1 to 3 p.m. President Dr. Rolando Rael will be among the guest speakers, joining dignitaries from the Las Vegas area.

Luna plans to offer a round-trip shuttle for students and employees

on a first-come, first-serve basis. Those interested in taking the shuttle are asked to sign up with Amanda Lucero, room 109 of the Humanities building. The school vehicle will depart at approximately 11 a.m. that day from the parking lot in front of the Maria H. Paiz Administration Building.

Students and employees planning to make the trip either in the school vehicle or on their own are advised to make arrangements

with their instructors or supervisors.

Anyone interested in helping promote the college and its importance to the area may wish to visit with area legislators Sen. Pete Campos, Sen. Liz Stefanics, Rep. Tomas Salazar, Rep. Joseph Sanchez and Rep. Martin Zamora.

No evening event will be held for this year's Las Vegas Day. The 30-day session concludes at noon on Feb. 20.

## Dental assisting students get hands-on



Luna dental assisting students started the new year practicing with lab materials, as they prepare toward proficiency in dentistry. Luna's spring semester began on Monday, Jan. 13. For more information on dental assisting and other Luna programs, call 505-454-2550.

# Welcome Back Week

Students enjoy free refreshments — including pizza, popcorn, cookies, soft drinks, water — as part of Welcome Back Week sponsored by the LCC Office of Campus Life.





# In honor of MLK

Several dozen members of the campus community — students, faculty, staff — took part in a celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Presenters shared thoughts on the civil rights icon's impact on society, and the audience watched excerpts of the "I Have A Dream" speech.





Dental assistant students practice surgical procedures in dentistry by learning how to assist in complex treatment as well as how to keep the worksite sterile. Pictured (left photo) are Gloria Pacheco, program administrator, student Brianna Sanchez, (right photo) Chantel Rivera, instructor, and Jade Ulibarri.



Luna students B.J. Scarver, an engineering and math major from San Diego, along with Jason Rings, a welding major from Grand Rapids, MI, enjoy a game of foosball during a break from class recently.



# The UNM Family Development Program

and  
LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Present:

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## Mind In The Making

Free Professional Development for Early Childhood  
Educators and Administrators (Birth-Grade 3)

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### Event Details

Date: Feb. 27-28, 2020

Time: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Location: LCC Media Arts Building

Each participant will receive: Lunch, "Mind In The Making" book,  
CEU's available

Registration is **FREE**

Deadline: Feb. 14, 2020

To register: email Tycie Jackson @ [tjackson@luna.edu](mailto:tjackson@luna.edu)  
Include: name of school, name(s) of attendees, email, and  
contact number.



\*Please state in the email if you have food allergies





2020

# Rough Rider Baseball

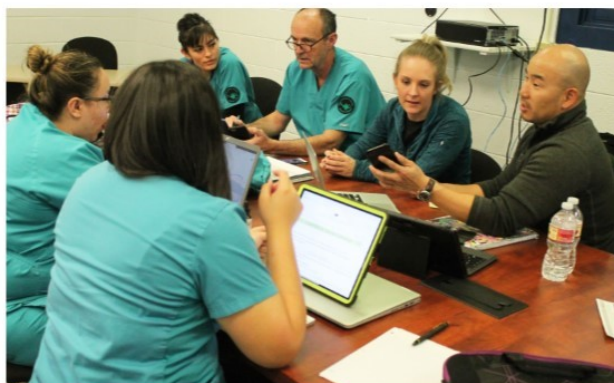
Friday, Jan. 31	at Eastern Arizona College (DH)	Noon	Thatcher, Ariz.
Saturday, Feb. 1	at Eastern Arizona College (DH)	Noon	Thatcher, Ariz.
Friday, Feb. 7	at Ottawa University JV (DH)	Noon	Surprise, Ariz.
Saturday, Feb. 8	at Ottawa University JV (DH)	Noon	Surprise, Ariz.
Wednesday, Feb. 12	at Trinidad State Junior College (DH)	Noon	Trinidad, Colo.
<b>Friday, Feb. 14</b>	<b>Otero Junior College (DH)</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
Saturday, Feb. 15	at Otero Junior College (DH)	Noon	La Junta, Colo.
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 19</b>	<b>Trinidad State Junior College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
Friday, Feb. 21	at Vernon College (DH)	Noon	Vernon, Texas
Saturday, Feb. 22	at Vernon College (DH)	Noon	Vernon, Texas
Friday, Feb. 28	at Wayland Baptist University JV (DH)	3 p.m.	Plainview, Texas
Saturday, Feb. 29	at Wayland Baptist University JV (DH)	Noon	Plainview, Texas
<b>Friday, March 6</b>	<b>Midland College (DH)</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Albuquerque, N.M.</b>
<b>Saturday, March 7</b>	<b>Midland College (DH)</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Albuquerque, N.M.</b>
Friday, March 13	at Odessa College (DH)	Noon	Odessa, Texas
Saturday, March 14	at Odessa College (DH)	Noon	Odessa, Texas
<b>Friday, March 20</b>	<b>El Paso Community College (DH)</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
<b>Saturday, March 21</b>	<b>El Paso Community College (DH)</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
<b>Friday, March 27</b>	<b>New Mexico Junior College (DH)</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Albuquerque, N.M.</b>
<b>Saturday, March 28</b>	<b>New Mexico Junior College (DH)</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Albuquerque, N.M.</b>
Friday, April 3	at Frank Phillips College (DH)	Noon	Borger, Texas
Saturday, April 4	at Frank Phillips College (DH)	Noon	Borger, Texas
Friday, April 10	at Clarendon College (DH)	Noon	Clarendon, Texas
Saturday, April 11	at Clarendon College (DH)	Noon	Clarendon, Texas
Saturday, April 18	at New Mexico Military Institute (DH)	Noon	Roswell, N.M.
Sunday, April 19	at New Mexico Military Institute (DH)	Noon	Roswell, N.M.
<b>Friday, April 24</b>	<b>Western Texas College (DH)</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
<b>Saturday, April 25</b>	<b>Western Texas College (DH)</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
Friday, May 1	at Howard College (DH)	Noon	Big Spring, Texas
Saturday, May 2	at Howard College (DH)	Noon	Big Spring, Texas



# Rough Rider Softball

Friday, Jan. 31	at Otero Junior College (DH)	1 p.m.	La Junta, Colo.
Thu-Sat, Feb. 6-8	at Permian Basin Invitational	TBA	Odessa, Texas
<b>Saturday, Feb. 15</b>	<b>Otero Junior College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
Saturday, Feb. 22	at Trinidad State Junior College (DH)	1 p.m.	Trinidad, Colo.
Wednesday, Feb. 26	at Pratt Community College (DH)	1 p.m.	Pratt, Kans.
<b>Friday, Feb. 28</b>	<b>Trinidad State Junior College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
<b>Saturday, March 7</b>	<b>Air Force Academy JV (DH)</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
<b>Sunday, March 8</b>	<b>Air Force Academy JV</b>	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
Tuesday, March 10	at Langston University	Noon	Langston, Okla.
Wednesday, March 18	at Adams State University JV (DH)	1 p.m.	Alamosa, Colo.
<b>Friday, March 20</b>	<b>Western Texas College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
<b>Saturday, March 21</b>	<b>Western Texas College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
Friday, March 27	at Clarendon College (DH)	1 p.m.	Clarendon, Texas
Saturday, March 28	at Clarendon College (DH)	1 p.m.	Clarendon, Texas
<b>Friday, April 3</b>	<b>El Paso Community College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
<b>Saturday, April 4</b>	<b>El Paso Community College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
Friday, April 10	at Frank Phillips College (DH)	1 p.m.	Borger, Texas
Saturday, April 11	at Frank Phillips College (DH)	1 p.m.	Borger, Texas
<b>Friday, April 17</b>	<b>Odessa College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
<b>Saturday, April 18</b>	<b>Odessa College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
<b>Friday, April 24</b>	<b>Howard College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
<b>Saturday, April 25</b>	<b>Howard College (DH)</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>	<b>Las Vegas, N.M.</b>
Friday, May 1	at Midland College (DH)	1 p.m.	Midland, Texas
Saturday, May 2	at Midland College (DH)	1 p.m.	Midland, Texas

# We help you take on the TEAS!



**Free TEAS prep  
workshops**  
5-7 p.m.  
Technology Building,  
room 126-B

**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](mailto:ypina@luna.edu), or 505-454-2525, to sign up or to get more information.

## Workshop schedule

SEQUENCE 1	WORKSHOP TOPIC	SEQUENCE 2
Feb. 18	Pre-test & test strategies	March 31
Feb. 20	Reading	April 2
Feb. 24	Math	April 6
Feb. 26	Anatomy & physiology	April 8
March 3	Life science	April 14
March 5	Post-test & skills review	April 16

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. Visit LCC Nursing Department for details.

