



**Luna auto collision repair student Josh Montoya preps a fender during a recent class session.**

# Blessing in disguise

## Collision repair students benefit from more individualized attention

Luna auto collision instructor Anthony Baca has been teaching for 22 years, and like most instructors he’s had to adjust to the pandemic.

“I feel that these COVID-19 regulations have helped us to better understand that it is the quality of teaching each student rather than the quantity of students we teach,” said Baca.

In normal conditions, Baca said that he could have up to 15 students in the lab area for hands-on instruction.

“Enrollment is down a bit this semester,” said Baca. “Many students decided not to take classes.”

However, Baca is looking at the bright side of things.

“Because of the social distancing regulations, we can only have up to five students in a lab setting,” said Baca. “In a way, it’s an advantage because you can give each student more individual attention. (Compared to) 15 people using different tools at a time, just by having fewer students, you are creating a safer working environment.”

**MORE: See Page 3**

# Eight-week classes start Oct. 12

Luna Community College is offering a number of eight-week courses set to begin the week of Oct. 12.

Registration for the classes is now open and will continue through Friday, Oct. 16.

Those seeking more information and details about how to enroll are advised to visit [luna.edu/schedule](http://luna.edu/schedule) or call 505-454-2550.

The college typically offers a select number of short-term courses for various reasons, including the fact they may fit more readily into some students' schedules. That is true for pre-professional training coursework such as commercial driver's license and certified nursing assistant

## Registration open through Oct. 16

classes.

This fall, the offerings include Cultures of the World, Baking Principles, Introduction to Business, Interpersonal Communication, Introduction to Short Fiction, First-Year Seminar for College Students, U.S. History II, Algebra with Applications, Music Appreciation: Western Music, American National Government, Introduction to Video Game Development, Introduction to Sociology, History of Christianity, Introduction to Psychology, Medical Terminology. Many of the course

credits may be applied toward degree programs and are transferrable to four-year institutions. (Check with individual program advisors for more information.)

Tuition rates at Luna remain among the best values in the Southwest, starting at \$40 per credit hour for in-district residents. Additionally, financial assistance is available.

Classes will run through the end of the fall semester on Dec. 4. As with most of the classes this semester, they will be offered online to help ensure the health and safety of students and others in the campus community.



# Blessing

Continued from Page 1

Baca said that with fewer students, he has been able to create individual student-learning plans.

“Not all students learn at the same rate,” he said. “You can work more on a student’s strengths and weaknesses on an individual basis rather than as a class,” said Baca.

Before going into the auto collision building, a student has to check in at the front gate where their temperature is checked, and they are asked a series of questions. Once cleared, a student can go to go to their designated classroom. Upon arriving in Baca’s class, each student has to report to an assigned working area.

“There is no sharing of equipment or tools,” said Baca. “Each student has to sanitize their tools, equipment and work area daily. In addition, they all have to wear masks.”

“I am appreciating my students more. There is nothing taken for granted right now.”

**Anthony Baca**  
Collision repair instructor

Baca said there are many jobs in the auto collision industry.

“There is a constant demand for entry level technicians in collision repair shops, insurance agencies, manufacturing, government and state agencies,” said Baca. “As long as they’re making cars and transportation, there is always a continuing supply of work.”

Overall, Baca said, he and his students have transitioned well to pandemic conditions.

“It’s more rewarding right now,” said Baca. “Managing the lab is a lot more efficient and safer. I am



**Above: Student Josh Vigil begins primer painting of a fender. Below: Student Joseph Sedillo prepares a tailgate for a body filler.**

appreciating my students more. There is nothing taken for granted right now.”

Students interested in taking auto collision classes in the spring can call Baca, 505-429-0425.

Baca said he would be teaching two entry-level classes and two advanced classes next semester.

Baca is not teaching any online classes in collision repair.





While Jonathan Lujan and other tutors in Luna's Academic Center for Excellence have had to transition their services online, they remain committed to helping students achieve success in their educational journeys.

*File photo*

# ACE: More than a place

Tutors draw inspiration from helping students gain confidence

Helping a student to better understand some aspect of their studies is one thing.

It's rewarding to see the student conquer a challenging assignment or earn a passing score on an exam.

But helping the student to grow into a more confident person is

what really makes tutoring worthwhile, agree the mentors who staff Luna Community College's Academic Center for Excellence.

Luna's ACE tutors – many of whom have been students at the college, enrolled in the same kinds of classes their students are now taking—have typically worked out of a spare classroom designated for the center on campus. Last year, ACE relocated into a larger suite outfitted with furnishings to make a more welcoming and enjoyable

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“We have a genuine care for our students and recognize the potential each and every one of them has ...”

**Raymond Varela**  
ACE manager

# LANL Foundation offers scholarships

## Submitted to the Luna Light

Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2021 spring term Career Pathways Scholarship. This scholarship awards \$1,500 — which may be renewable for up to \$3,000 — to qualified applicants pursuing a two-year degree, trade or certificate. Individuals with a high school diploma, GED/High School Equivalency (HSE), or some college experience are encouraged to apply at <https://www.lanlfoundation.org/our-work-scholarships/career-pathways-scholarships>. The application deadline is Nov. 16, 2020.

“Career Pathways Scholarship recipients embody the belief that a

person can redefine themselves and build a life of their choosing through continued education. We are honored to serve these dedicated and inspiring members of our community,” said Mike Ammerman, LANL Scholars program manager.

Recipients of Career Pathways Scholarships are focused and determined with a clear vision. Their tireless motivation drives them to attain a secondary education, gain necessary work skills and ultimately improve the lives of their family, their community and themselves. In 2019, 57 Career Pathways Scholarships — worth more than \$115,000 — were awarded to students across northern New Mexico.

Applicants must be residents of LANL Foundation’s northern New Mexico seven-county service area. Funding can be applied to any accredited post-secondary educational institution, in or out of state.

Since 1999, LANL Foundation has managed and administered the Los Alamos Employees’ Scholarship Fund. Scholarships are funded by LANL employees, retirees, contractors, and Triad National Security, LLC. Community members and local businesses may also contribute to LANL’s numerous scholarship funds; donations are accepted year-round.



**CROP  
HUNGER WALK**  
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



## CROP Walk set for Oct. 14

The Luna Community College softball team is planning to have a walk on campus at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 14 as part of a Crop Hunger Walk. Luna students and employees are welcome to join in the walk. COVID-19 precautions will take place during the walk that will begin in front of the Maria H. Paiz Administration Building. The plan is to walk one lap around

campus, which is approximately less than a mile and should take about 20 minutes.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk events held in cities and towns across the nation raising funds to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization that responds to hunger, poverty and displacement

and disaster around the world.

If you wish to donate to the Crop Hunger Walk, checks or money orders may be made to CWS/CROP. You can also send checks or money orders to Patrick Rucker, CROP Treasurer, c/o First United Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 37, Las Vegas, NM 87701. You can also donate online at [crophungerwalk.org/lasvegasmn](http://crophungerwalk.org/lasvegasmn).

# ACE tutors

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place to study and meet with tutors, friends or classmates.

While the global pandemic has at least temporarily changed the way ACE operates, the tutoring team – overseen by manager Raymond Varela – has only reaffirmed its resolve to help students, even if their work now must be carried out primarily online.

This year’s lineup of tutors is motivated to connect with students and contribute to their growth not only as students within particular classes or subjects but as individuals who seek to improve themselves overall.

“I believe every student has the opportunity to better themselves, but it all starts with being able to ask for help,” said Melanie Soto Ramos, who tutors in Humanities and STEM. “Every time a student comes to me for help once again, I know they have gained a little more confidence to be able to ask for that help. The confidence tutoring gives students is what motivates me most.”

“My motivation to be a tutor was mostly to help students, especially students who are pursuing their degree or a career in criminal justice,” said Amber Gonzales (Humanities, Criminal Justice). “Being a tutor is a rewarding and interesting job. I feel that as a tutor I can make a positive difference for students who seek help in preparation for exams and assignment. By far, I have enjoyed

## “The confidence tutoring gives students is what motivates me most ...”

**Melanie Soto Ramos**  
ACE tutor

working with every student I have been able to help.”

“I find it to be a rewarding job,” agreed Jonathan Lujan (Humanities, English). “I enjoy witnessing students become better writers and gain confidence in their studies.”

“The motivation that I get when I tutor students,” said Auritha Roybal (STEM, math), “is when the semester is over, and they tell me that they no longer hate math!”

“I enjoy seeing their papers improve from one draft to the next,” said Sergio Hartshorne (Humanities).

“Witnessing when a student grabs a concept that was initially a challenge (is inspiring),” said Brittney Marie Mares (STEM, science and math). “Tutors get rewarded by their students’ achievements, and this motivates me to be there for my students and make my best effort to help them build their confidence as well as knowledge.”

Developing ways to help each student get a better handle on the material is part of the quest for each tutor.

“Everyone has to teach themselves how to learn,” said Adan Martinez (STEM, math, chemistry), “but not everyone uses and understands material the same way.”

Working to help others has a side benefit for the tutors, whose command of the academic subjects is reinforced by the process.

“I enjoy helping students understand the content and succeed in their classes,” said Abigail Gurule (Allied Health Sciences). “Also it helps me continue to learn, refresh on subjects and improve my people skills.”

As coordinator of ACE, Varela said he is pleased to know the tutors see the intrinsic rewards of their work.

“It makes me proud to be a part of this program that our tutors would say that,” he said. “We really are a group of humble people who get a sense of accomplishment in watching our students succeed. We do our best not only to help students get through a class but give them that confidence in themselves to succeed. Every two weeks we collect a paycheck for doing our jobs, but it is truly more than that for us. We are all either past or present students of Luna and know the struggles of students. We have a genuine care for our students and recognize the potential each and every one of them has. We’ve watched students come in and want to give up, and we assure them that they can do it. We never do the work for students but give them the help

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# ACE tutors

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they need to learn material and help them gain that confidence not only in the subject area but as students in general.”

Varela acknowledges that for some, taking the first step may be the toughest: “Coming for tutoring can be a difficult thing, but once a student comes in, they realize it is a good thing to seek help when needed. We build a bond with them to make them feel comfortable coming in. When hiring tutors we don’t only look at the success they’ve had in classes but we want to hire people interested in sharing their knowledge and experiences to help our students grow. I think we’ve done a good job at hiring the best possible group that makes ACE a really great program. The tutors are amazing individuals with great futures for themselves, but I’m glad they remain dedicated to helping our students.”

For more information on ACE tutoring services, those interested may contact Varela at [rvarela@luna.edu](mailto:rvarela@luna.edu).



**Prior to the COVID shutdown, students made ACE (sometimes known as the ACE Lab) a popular gathering spot for studies and tutoring. File photo**

## ACE adjusts to new M.O.

### Tutors embrace online delivery

Make no mistake about it.

Ray Varela misses the old way of doing things when it comes to running the Academic Center for Excellence.

But ACE is functioning well these days as an online service — providing tutoring in a variety of academic subjects to Luna students.

“Honestly, the most difficult part (of the transition online) was losing the social aspect of the ACE,” said Varela, the ACE manager. “We were used to students coming in and getting help, using computers, socializing, venting ... and we knew we were more than just a computer lab (and) we provided a valuable service to our students. We feared that physically closing ACE we would lose some of that. However, we looked at it as an opportunity to grow and extend our services to an online platform and even offer assistance on weekends to reassure our students that we would still be there for them during

this difficult time.”

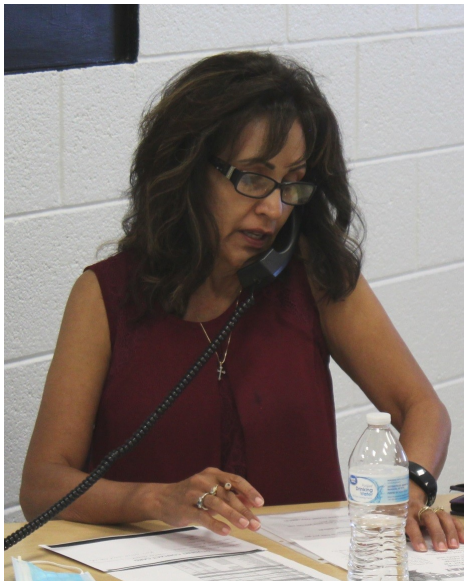
When COVID-19 intruded into the Spring ‘20 semester and forced campus closures, the ACE team was one of the offices that worked well to make the move to remote services.

Varela said he thanks the spring lineup of tutors for a “relatively seamless transition to online tutoring” that came about after a brainstorming session.

Initially ACE worked through some minor technical issues, Varela said, “but we embraced the challenge and are now even more equipped to help our students.”

“We take pride in how we responded to this shift to an online tutoring service, and giving our students the help they need remains our priority.”

“We look forward to when ACE can be the busy area again, with students walking in and out throughout the day and night, but we’ve tried to see the positive in this. Once we open again we will not only be here physically but maintain an online presence as well.”



Several Luna employees have taken part in a telephone drive reaching out to students and informing them of the eight-week classes available this fall. Above: Dental Assisting program administrator Gloria Pacheco, ACE coordinator Raymond Varela, School of Business director Lita Bernal. Below: Learning Resource Center manager Linda Salazar and STEM advisor Janice Varela.



## Mid-fall phone drive reaches out to students

Luna Community College has conducted a phone drive Oct. 1-9 to inform students about the college's eight-week courses, which begin Monday, Oct. 12.

As was the case this past summer during registration for Fall 2020, a number of Luna employees worked the phone lines as part of

outreach efforts encouraging students to enroll for classes.

The last day to register for the eight-week classes is Friday, Oct. 16.

Fifteen eight-week classes encompass a variety of subjects and include courses accepted in degree programs. Other short-term classes are in CDL and CNA training.





# Luna students can learn business skills (and earn cash) through free seminars

Luna Community College students can earn \$10-per-hour stipends – and gain valuable insights on creating, building and growing their own businesses – through an innovative new partnership this semester.

Students who enroll in and complete a Small Business Development Center business development seminar/workshop will be eligible to receive the stipends, which are funded through a grant. More importantly, the workshops provide education and training that will help budding entrepreneurs and others interested in potential business opportunities.

“This is a win-win for students at LCC,” said Francisco Apodaca, director of Luna’s Science,

Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Department. “They can make some cash while earning a Certificate of Completion that can be used on their resumé when applying for a job or use the knowledge they gain to possibly start a small business venture. These classes can possibly give the students an advantage over others when applying for a job.”

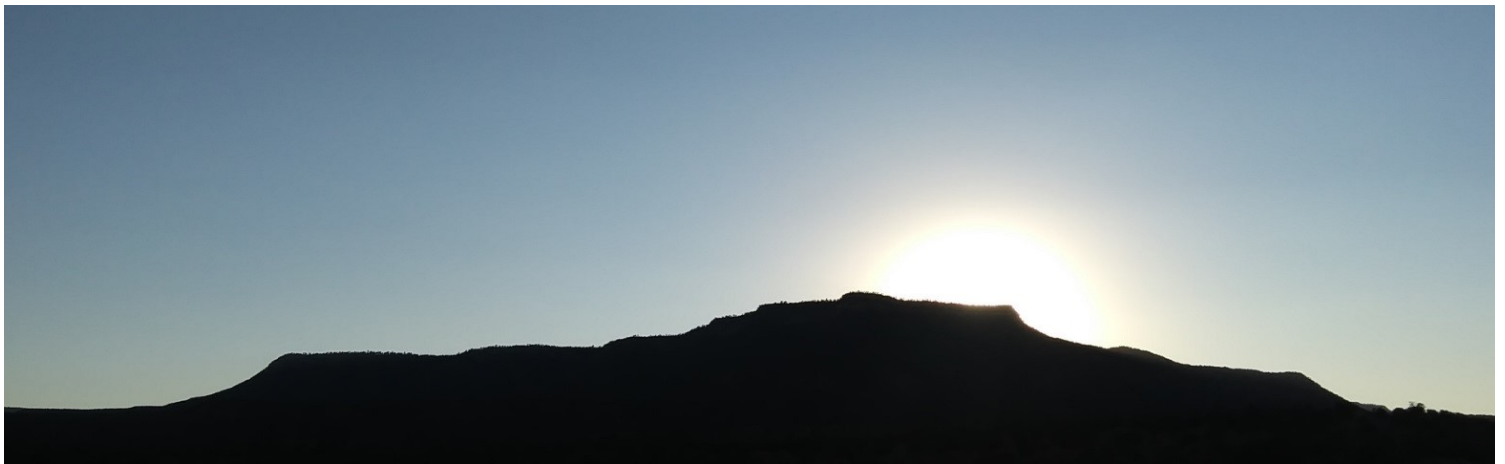
Seminars will be fully online and will range from one to four hours each, with topics like “how to start a small business” and “small business bookkeeping.” Each class session is self-contained.

Any Luna student is eligible to participate. Those who register for the seminars and complete them will receive a Certificate of Completion.

Those who can provide a copy of the certificate will be eligible to receive the stipend, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The program is being coordinated through Luna’s STEM and Business departments in conjunction with the college’s Small Business Development Center and the state SBDC. It is part of a grant funded through the Regional Development Corporation, supported by Triad and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

•For more information on enrollment in the non-credit seminars, please contact STEM Director Francisco Apodaca, [fapodaca@luna.edu](mailto:fapodaca@luna.edu).



This sunset was taken recently in San Jose, a village about 30 miles south of Las Vegas.

## 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)

# OCTOBERFEST AT LUNA!



**Join us for our eight-week classes beginning Oct. 12!**

Learn as you earn college credit in various subjects – online for your safety and convenience.

For details and registration information, please see [luna.edu/schedule](http://luna.edu/schedule) or call 505-454-2550. Register now through Oct. 16.

ANTH 1141	Cultures of the World	-T-R-	1:30-4:30 p.m.
BUSA 1110E	Intro to Business (DL)	Async	TBA
COMM 2120	Interpersonal Communication	M-W—	2-4:50 p.m.
ENGL 2380	Intro to Short Fiction	Async	TBA
FYEX 1110	First-Year Seminar	Async	TBA
HIST 1120	U.S. History II	M-W—	4-6:50 p.m.
MATH 095	Algebra with Applications	MTWR-	9-10:50 a.m.
MUSC 1130	Music Appreciation: Western	Async	TBA
POLS 1120	American National Government	M-W—	4-6:50 p.m.
VDG 128	Intro to Video Game Development	Async	TBA
SOCI 1110	Intro to Sociology	Async	TBA
RELG 2130	History of Christianity	Async	TBA
PSYC 1110	Intro to Psychology	Async	TBA
AH 113	Medical Terminology	-T-R-	5-7:50 p.m.

More classes to be added! Classes run from Oct. 12 through Dec. 4.



## How to register for classes

Due to campus access restrictions, all registration and registration-related business will be handled remotely.

If you are a first-year student at Luna, you must first contact the admissions office via telephone or e-mail. After this, you will have to contact the Student Success Center, also via telephone or e-mail, for registration and the ACCUPLACER. Telephone numbers are listed below.

If you are a returning student, you may register via the online portal at luna.edu.

If you have declared a major, please call your program advisor. If you have not declared a major, are a transfer student or a first-time freshman, please contact the Student Success Center. No answer? Leave a clear message with your name and telephone number. An advisor may be busy assisting another student but will return your call as soon as possible.

### All 2020 classes will be offered online unless otherwise specified.

Allied Health Sciences & Pre-Nursing Advisor, Vanessa Torres	505-454-2527	<a href="mailto:vatorres@luna.edu">vatorres@luna.edu</a>
Early Childhood Education Advisor, Tycie Jackson	505-454-5381	<a href="mailto:tjackson@luna.edu">tjackson@luna.edu</a>
Humanities Advisor, Rick Baca	505-454-2532	<a href="mailto:rbaca@luna.edu">rbaca@luna.edu</a>
Humanities Advisor, Nathan Baker	505-454-2594	<a href="mailto:nbaker@luna.edu">nbaker@luna.edu</a>
Sciences, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Advisor, Janice Varela	505-454-2537	<a href="mailto:jvarela@luna.edu">jvarela@luna.edu</a>
School of Business Director & Advisor, Lita Bernal	505-454-5337	<a href="mailto:lbernal@luna.edu">lbernal@luna.edu</a>
Career & Technical Education Advisor, Karen Wezwick	505-454-2573	<a href="mailto:kwezwick@luna.edu">kwezwick@luna.edu</a>
Student Success Center Advisors	505-454-5355	<a href="mailto:studentsuccess@luna.edu">studentsuccess@luna.edu</a>
Student Success Center Advisors	505-454-2541	<a href="mailto:studentsuccess@luna.edu">studentsuccess@luna.edu</a>
<hr/>		
Admissions Office	505-454-2550	<a href="mailto:admissions@luna.edu">admissions@luna.edu</a>
Financial Aid Office	505-454-2534	<a href="mailto:finaid@luna.edu">finaid@luna.edu</a>
Cashier's Office	505-454-2506	<a href="mailto:fiscaloffice@luna.edu">fiscaloffice@luna.edu</a>
Registrar's Office/ <b>General Information</b>	505-454-5313	<a href="mailto:registrar@luna.edu">registrar@luna.edu</a>
Student Success Center Office/Accuplacer Testing	505-454-5355	<a href="mailto:studentsuccess@luna.edu">studentsuccess@luna.edu</a>
Veterans Resource Center; Sarah Cantu, coordinator	505-454-5343	<a href="mailto:scantu@luna.edu">scantu@luna.edu</a>
Dual Credit Office; Geraldine Saavedra, coordinator	505-454-5308	<a href="mailto:gsaavedra@luna.edu">gsaavedra@luna.edu</a>
Bookstore; Ron Duran, manager	505-454-2569	<a href="mailto:rduran@luna.edu">rduran@luna.edu</a>

## How to order books

Visit the Luna online bookstore at [bookstore.mbsdirect.net/luna.htm](http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/luna.htm). Select your courses from your schedule. View your course materials and select your preferred format. Check out. Select Guaranteed Buyback titles and save up to 70 percent off your course materials. Our customer contact center is open 24/7, ready to take your order or answer your questions. Call 1-800-325-3252 or e-mail [customerservice@mbsdirect.net](mailto:customerservice@mbsdirect.net).

## Student payment options

**By phone with a debit/credit card:** Students may leave a message at 505-454-2506 or e-mail [fiscaloffice@luna.edu](mailto:fiscaloffice@luna.edu) with their name, ID number and a callback number. Your call will be returned, and someone will assist you in processing the payment.

**By mail with check/money order (payable to Luna Community College):** Students can mail their payments to

Luna Community College  
c/o Business Office  
366 Luna Drive  
Las Vegas, NM 87701

(Be sure to include your name and ID number)

# Stay connected this school year!



**Luna campus e-mail** is the primary way the college notifies its students (and employees) about key information. Anything ranging from schedule changes to special event information to job opportunities to campus news is shared via LCC e-mail.

To sign up for a free Luna e-mail account, go to [luna.edu/createStudentAccount](http://luna.edu/createStudentAccount). If help setting up the account is required, call Larry Paiz, 505-454-5361.



# THANK YOU FOR VOTING ABSENTEE!

***This year, you can support your local public college, university or specialty school without raising your tax rates.***

By voting on General Obligation (GO) Bond C for higher education, you ensure they have funding to provide safe, comfortable, modern classrooms and facilities for their students. You also support in-person and online learning opportunities through up-to-date technology to help keep our best and brightest students in New Mexico.

***Mail your completed absentee ballot by October 27, 2020 or drop it by your county clerk or any polling location during early voting or on Election Day.***

Learn more at

[www.bondc4nm.com](http://www.bondc4nm.com)

or call 1-800-687-3417.



***Paid for by the 2020 GO Bond for Higher Education Campaign, Dr. Steven Gamble and Ronnie Birdsong, co-chairs.***



# Know the Difference: Flu vs. COVID-19

Get a flu shot now!  
Find a clinic:  
[www.immunizenm.org](http://www.immunizenm.org)

## Flu Symptoms

- **Fever\*** or chills
- **Cough**
- **Sore throat**
- **Runny or stuffy nose**
- **Muscle or body aches**
- **Headache**
- **Fatigue (tiredness)**
- **Vomiting and diarrhea** (more common in children than adults)

\*Not everyone with flu will have a fever.

## COVID-19 Symptoms

- **Fever or chills**
- **Cough**
- **Sore throat**
- **Runny or stuffy nose**
- **Muscle or body aches**
- **Headache**
- **Fatigue (tiredness)**
- **Vomiting**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **New loss of taste or smell**

\*Many people with COVID-19 do not experience symptoms

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
**COVID-19 HOTLINE**



**1-855-600-3453**

**Available 24/7**

NEW MEXICO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH**

*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](mailto:jgallegos@luna.edu), and Dave Kavanaugh, [dkavanaugh@luna.edu](mailto:dkavanaugh@luna.edu).*



# DISTRACTED DRIVING *know the facts!*



Distracted driving is **any activity** that could divert a **person's attention** away from the primary task of **driving**.

**Remote Learning  
Should Never  
Happen While  
DRIVING!**



THERE ARE **3** MAIN TYPES OF *distraction*



**visual**

taking your eyes off the road



**manual**

taking your hands off the wheel



**cognitive**

taking your mind off what you are doing

# Riders baseball helps clean up town



The Luna baseball team helped lead Vecinos Juntos de Las Vegas' "Paint The Town" community clean-up on Saturday, Oct. 3. Head coach T.C. Nusser, assistant coach Harry Estep and nearly a dozen Rough Rider student-athletes participated, picking up and removing litter from a number of city neighborhoods. Luna's contingent joined others from Las Vegas City Schools, West Las Vegas Schools and New Mexico Highlands University for the event, which also included painting of the Gallinas River bridge where Bridge and National meet. Luna is a partner in Vecinos Juntos, a community organization promoting and coordinating volunteer activities in Las Vegas.

