

Summer enrollment up 14 percent over last year



Chemistry students Alexis Martinez, Kendra Flores, Nicholas Maestas and Adia Salas (from left) work together on a reaction time experiment in their lab on June 18. Summer enrollment is up 14 percent compared to 2018, with 575 students taking 1,883 credit hours.

Headcount, credit hours up from summer 2018

Luna Community College summer enrollment shows a 14 percent increase in comparison to last year's figures.

As of June 17, there was a 575 student headcount compared to a 506 student headcount at the same time last summer.

Similarly, student credit hours have increased by 5 percent also in relation to where Luna was at in summer of

2018. As of June 17 in the summer semester, students were taking 1,883 credit hours compared to 1,793 credit hours at the same time last summer.

"This is an indication that our students are committed to their education and gravitating back to Luna, recognizing the college's value," said Luna Community College President Dr. Rolando Rael. "As a college, we continue to work diligently to show students how important it is for them to be here. Luna is committed to our service area and will continue to strive to make sure every

student is given an opportunity for success."

Luna's fall registration is ongoing. The first day of fall classes is Monday, Aug. 19, and the last day to register is Monday, Aug. 26.

Luna Community College offers several degree and certificate programs in the areas of allied health, business, education, humanities, nursing, STEM and vocational and technical studies.

For more information on Luna, please visit our website at luna.edu or call 505-454-2550.

Teams collaborate on response to HLC site-review report

Luna meets 18 of 21 components but looking for improvement in key areas; three components out of compliance

As the summer session gets under way, Luna Community College continues its work to secure and improve upon its accreditation status.

Specifically, the institution is developing a response to a post-visit report from the Higher Learning Commission site-visit team that spent a couple of days on campus March 25-27. That report, an 87-page document, was received by the Luna administration in May. The report and response will be among the major forms of input to be considered by the HLC Board of Trustees in determining Luna's accreditation status, a decision expected in November.

The HLC site-visit team found improvement in a number of areas and overall from the set of issues that prompted the HLC to issue a show-cause order in November 2017. Since July 2018, when the show-cause order was lifted, Luna has been on probation while remaining accredited.

"Luna Community College has made significant progress in addressing the serious concerns outlined in the July, 9, 2018, letter from the Higher Learning Commission," the team noted in its summary.

In 18 of 21 core components reviewed, Luna was found to meet the criteria considered in accreditation. Moreover, elements related to the college mission; teaching and learning quality, resources and support; teaching and learning evaluation and improvement were found to meet standards without any concerns.

But the HLC site-visit team also found that Luna still has work to do to meet its accreditation criteria. The primary areas of concern are in the areas of integrity: ethical and responsible conduct; and resources, planning and institutional effectiveness.

In integrity: ethical and responsible conduct, Luna met



Reintroduction of the student senate is one of the positive developments noted in the Higher Learning Commission report. The college is working to address areas needing improvement as cited in the report.

four of five core components, with one component unmet and two met with concerns. In resources and planning, Luna met two of four core components, with two unmet and two met with concerns.

President Rolando Rael has reached out to all faculty and staff for a collaborative effort to address the HLC site-review team's report and the findings. On June 5, he gathered those interested for a campus forum and asked the employees to team up in groups assigned to each of the five criterion areas along with one to address federal compliance.

In reaching out to faculty and staff, Rael said the college's response should ideally represent a collaborative effort, as the perspectives and insights of each individual and department are varied and valuable.

Since then, the groups have met to formulate responses to the HLC report and to develop strategies for campuswide improvement in many areas, including but not limited to those cited as areas of concern to the HLC team.

In the interest of maintaining transparency, Luna has made the HLC team's report available online within the Accreditation link on its website, luna.edu. Once completed, Luna's response to the report will also be made available.

Staff senate election Friday, June 21

Luna Community College's Staff Advisory Senate will be conducting its elections on Friday, June 21. Staff members may vote between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the LCC Office of Human Resources.

Absentee voting has been ongoing since Friday, June 14, at the LCC Office of Human Resources. A list of staff

membership groups was circulated via campus e-mail.

Five vacancies are open on the staff senate — two in the Professional category, one in General Maintenance, two in Administrative Assistants & Office Managers, and one in Technicians & Other.

Faculty and student senates recently held elections.

New trustees: Gonzales, Jaramillo

The Luna Community College Board of Trustees took on a new look at its June meeting, with two new members joining the board.

Julian Jaramillo and Martin Gonzales were formally sworn in by San Miguel County Magistrate Judge Christian Montaña in a brief ceremony prior to the meeting. Chairman Daniel Romero welcomed them on behalf of the board as they took part in their first meeting as trustees.

Jaramillo, 31, will represent District 5, which is in San Miguel County.

Gonzales, 49, will represent District 6, which includes parts of Colfax, Mora and San Miguel counties.

Both were selected by the board to fill vacancies left by the resignations of Abelino Montoya Jr. and David Gutierrez. Jaramillo and Gonzales will serve through the end of the calendar year. All seven board positions will be up for election in November.



San Miguel County Magistrate Judge Christian Montaña administers the oath of office for newly appointed trustees Martin Gonzales (top photo) and Julian Jaramillo prior to the June 11 board meeting.





Students enjoy refreshments as they explore the new site for Luna's Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), which provides a friendly, comfortable environment for studying and tutorial services. ACE has relocated to a more spacious area in Tech 139.

ACE is the place

Study center moves into new location

Luna students enrolled in classes this summer session got the first opportunity to try out the new location for the Academic Center for Excellence.

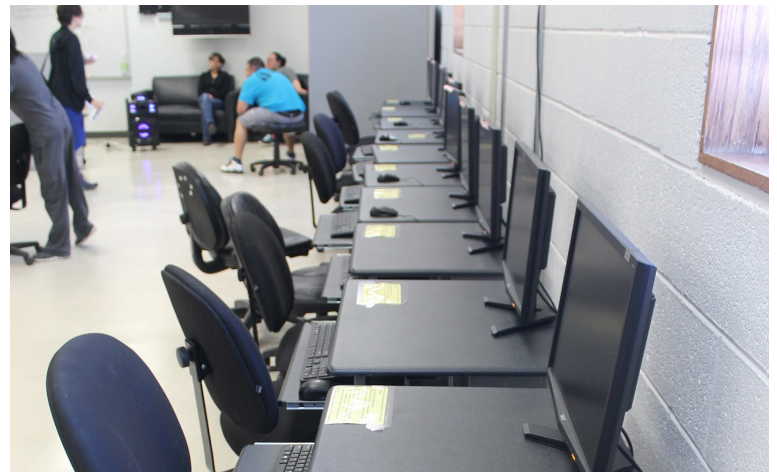
ACE is a combination study center, computer lab and writing center designed to help students in a variety of subjects. The center has relocated to Room 139 in the Technology Building (the northern wing adjoining the administration building) from its former home in the STEM department offices. On June 6, students and employees flocked to see ACE's new digs, freshly furnished by the center's tutors.

The new location offers a sunny, spacious area with room for a bank of computers, tables, chairs and couches for student use. Addition of new vending machines and other features is planned.

"We wanted to accommodate more students and create a space that they can really enjoy and use," said STEM Director Francisco Apodaca. "ACE is all about helping our students."

Tutors will continue to be available in various disciplines, with their schedules to be posted at the center. Study groups and individuals from all majors and academic programs are welcome to use the center, which will generally be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 to 5 on Friday. Expanded hours for midterms and finals weeks can also be expected.

Luna may also schedule content-specific seminars or



workshops to assist students in particular subjects.

Raymond Varela will continue to oversee ACE's daily operations.

Relocating ACE came in response to the popularity the center enjoyed at its previous location, as students spilled out from the main lab into the nearby classrooms. The space that ACE previously occupied will now be used as a conference room.

The new, expansive and functional ACE is the latest of a season of improvements Luna students can enjoy on campus. In April, the college's student government and Office of Campus Life unveiled a new game room designed for student recreation. That is located next to the Samuel F. Vigil Learning Resource Center lecture hall, in Room 102 of the LRC.

Car show turns 15



Shiny chrome and polished paint was everywhere for the 15th annual LCC Custom Car Show June 8 at Melody Park in the heart of the Meadow City.

The 15th annual Luna Community College Custom Car Show, which showcases some of the specially modified two- and four-wheel beauties of northeastern New Mexico, drew hundreds of visitors to Melody Park on the New Mexico Highlands University campus on Saturday, June 8.

The show featured custom cars and trucks, motorcycles and bikes, live entertainment (acclaimed band Viento and the DJ Dangerous Dave Montañó), food vendors, special guests, door prizes and more. Organizers presented local Latin Dezire Car Club with the Icon Award, recognizing that group's commitment to its craft over the years.

A years, makes and models of cars, trucks, motorcycles and bikes were invited to enter, with both projects in progress as well as the finished products welcome. Commemorative T-shirts and plaques were designed

specifically for the event.

The car show originated in 2003, as the trio of Anthony Baca, Ron Duran and Rick Roybal worked out a joint venture between Luna and NMHU. Margaret Gonzales, then with NMHU's student life, was a major contributor as well. "It was to have an outlet for students in the automotive technology program to showcase their skills and talents," Baca explained, "whether it's building an engine or painting a car ... that was the initial thing. And it was for the community to chime in, too, with their skills and talents. It allows everyone to collaborate and exchange ideas; it inspires them."

"The whole purpose was to have that kind of activity together with Highlands," Baca said. "We work well together. It's a community event for all ages, and it brings people out ... I've seen that generational thing, where the father had a car back in

2003, and now the son is doing it. Families go and set up their lawn chairs and just enjoy the day. There are informational booths set up by Luna and Highlands and other community organizations."

Proceeds from the event benefit the auto tech and auto body programs at Luna, Baca said, helping to pay for student travel to field trips, conferences and other activities. "The community has been generous about giving sponsorships," he noted. "We thank the community, the local business owners, for that."

Over time, the car show has at least doubled in terms of the number of entries. Last year, approximately 120 entries were on display. While many are from the Las Vegas area, there are also participants from Colorado as well as the Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Española, Mora and other communities.

Continued on Page 8



*June 8, 2019
Melody Park*



Car show ...

Continued from Page 5

“We’ve had some top-notch cars go through here,” Baca said. A few examples of those that have stood out: a Batmobile, a monster truck, a tractor-pull truck, race cars, SEMA show winners and cars inducted into the New Mexico Lowrider Hall of Fame.

“It’s not just about old cars,” he added. “There’s new cars that show the new technology – some with TVs and different things.”

Baca said American society – and northern New Mexico in particular – has long had a love affair with the automobile and the car culture.

“Back in the day when people had very little money, they would save up for months or years to buy their first vehicle,” he said. “They relate their vehicle to the hard work it takes to accomplish it. Not only to buy your own but to fix your own, it’s a sense of accomplishment. Especially here in New Mexico, that feeling is very strong. There’s family tradition involved. Someone will say, ‘I remember my grandpa had a ’62 Buick...’ Or we remember as kids we used to travel here and there, getting into the station wagon and going... It brings back memories; that’s what keeps the culture going. And you spend so much time in your vehicle. Your vehicle is pretty much like your second home.”

When it comes to staging a car show successfully for 15 years running, Baca credits community support across the board as well as the work of Luna’s car show club members – including adviser Henrietta Romero, president Dave Montañó, vice president Florencio Garcia, treasurer Travis Baca, secretary Josh Corbin, and senator Raul Ramirez. Baca functions as promoter. He said performers like Montañó, Robert Baca and Viento are also generous about donating their talents to help stage successful shows.



Luna fall registration
is ongoing through Monday, Aug. 26.
First day of fall classes is Monday, Aug. 19.

Luna instructor Justine Chavez-Crespin talks to students in her College Success class during the first day of summer session on June 3. The purpose of the class is to ensure students have the tools and skills necessary for a successful college experience, which will lead to completion of a degree or certificate in their fields of study. Registration for fall is ongoing, with the first day of fall classes Aug. 19 and the last day to register Aug. 26.



Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Dr. Thom Mason and Luna STEM Director Francisco Apodaca talk at the LANL Community Conversation event held May 30 at Buffalo Thunder Resort. Dr. Mason spoke to regional community leaders about LANL's new approach to safety as the lab's mission grows and how the lab plans on addressing the region's employment and educational needs.

Luna joins smoking cessation push

The Luna Community College Facilities Department along with the Life Safety/Security Department will be putting up No Smoking or Vaping signs around campus.

Currently, there are three locations on campus which are designated as smoking areas. They are: the west side of the Technologies and Administration Building; the west side area of the Allied Health Building which includes the IPC Cafeteria and the last one is across the street from the Early Childhood Center and east of the Au-

tomotive Building near the south side of the Auto Collision Building.

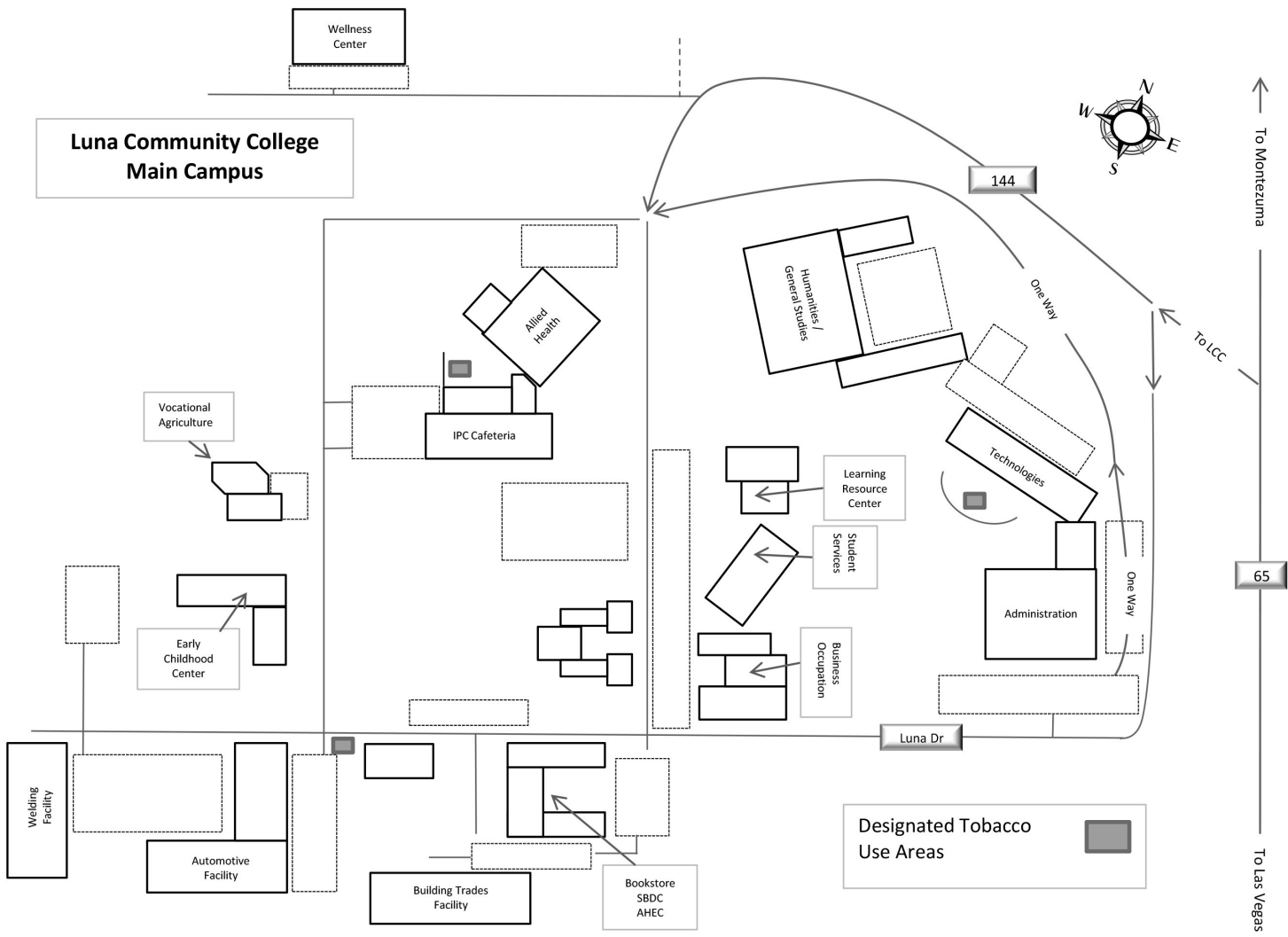
Pictured below is a map showing the designated smoking areas around campus.

Luna is part of the Tobacco-Free Campuses New Mexico (TFCNM) initiative, which is a statewide network of colleges and universities in support, contemplating, or in the process of adopting a tobacco-free policy.

Tobacco and nicotine use is the *leader* in preventable death, costs


the state of New Mexico \$1.5 billion annually in medical and lost productivity (\$300 billion nationwide), and kills 480,000 Americans annually while causing many other negative health effects.

TFCNM is currently building capacity across college and university settings in order to protect our fellow community members from the risks stated above by providing resources and technical assistance for tobacco-free policy implementation.



FACTS ON TOBACCO USE

LEADING cause of 
PREVENTABLE
 death in the United States

Kills more Americans than alcohol, car crashes, AIDS, fires, heroin, cocaine, homicide, and suicide
COMBINED!!! 

480K (approx.) deaths per year in the US

1,300 (approx.) deaths everyday


44K (approx.) deaths among nonsmoking adults each year






CAUSES 
 stroke, lung cancer, and coronary heart disease

Tobacco use costs NM 
\$1.5 BILLION
 in medical and lost productivity annually

The annual economic cost of smoking in the US is more than 
\$300 BILLION

Nearly 
\$170 BILLION
 in direct medical care for adults annually in the US

Smokers earn  **20%** less income than non-smokers 

Big tobacco companies  advertise **10X** more in racial/ethnic neighborhoods than in other neighborhoods

Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center @ Luna Community College



Take PE 112 or 113, a self-paced class that allows you to work out at your own convenience with weight machines, free weights and cardio equipment. Students and members will log in a minimum of 20 hours during the semester. Training available upon request.

Facility features treadmills, stationary bikes, stair steppers; free weights, cable weight machines; abdominal and core strength equipment; basketball court, boxing room with speed bag and heavy bags; men's and women's locker rooms with showers.

Other classes offered at the center: individual fitness instruction, Zumba, High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT), self-defense.

Call 505-454-2517 for more information.

Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Monday through Thursday;
7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday.

\$46 a semester for
community members
(enroll in PE 112 or 113)

\$30 a semester for those
age 55 and older

FREE to Luna students
and employees
(sign waiver at business office)



Work out with us!