



2021 Presidential Search and Recruitment

Luna Community College
Las Vegas, NM



Luna Community College in Las Vegas, New Mexico seeks an enthusiastic and visionary leader to serve as President. The President of Luna Community College (LCC) is the chief executive officer of the institution and will continue to build on the strong traditions of high-quality learning and lead the college into the future. LCC is committed to preparing students for success through a broad range of academic, career technical, and professional education programs by providing accessible, affordable and quality education. The college aims to promote collegiality, respect and dignity among staff and students.

The college has approximately 1,000 undergraduate students and a student-to-faculty ratio of 13:1. Founded in 1969, LCC is located on the lower slopes of the majestic Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range overlooking beautiful Las Vegas, New Mexico. LCC plays an integral role in higher education to prepare students for success in the northeastern communities of New Mexico and it is the only community college in multicultural northeastern New Mexico. In addition to the main campus in Las Vegas, it has satellite centers in the northeastern New Mexico towns of Santa Rosa and Springer. In addition, the college also has a site in Mora. Together with the main campus, the site and satellites serve high schools located in San Miguel, Mora, Guadalupe and Colfax counties. LCC also has a presence in Pecos schools. All campuses are administered and supervised by LCC and governed by an elected Board of Trustees from the service area. Programs may be offered in any community of the service area where need is demonstrated.

Committed to providing accessible, affordable and current educational opportunities, LCC plays a critical community role in providing transfer, career technical and professional needs for the service area. LCC accepts the responsibility and intent to create state-of-the-art educational programs to provide students with opportunity, skillset and critical thinking abilities that enable them to realize success in life and their careers. LCC is accredited to grant certificates, associate of applied science, associate of arts, and associate of science degrees by the Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and operates within the guidelines of the New Mexico Department of Higher Education.

In recent years, the College has demonstrated significant improvement in the areas of Shared Governance, academic assessment, transparency, and financial controls. The College has also made significant investments in employee compensation and increasing the total number of full-time employees.

Opportunities and Challenges

- The President serves as the Chief Executive Officer for LCC and reports directly to the Board of Trustees.
- The president will provide leadership and oversight for all aspects of the college including academics, finance, planning, student affairs, enrollment, advancement, athletics, and other key areas and operates in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Board.
- The president will build upon and enhance a history of academic, career technical and professional education programs with dedication and commitment to a diverse and inclusive community.
- The president will advance the mission of LCC by working in strong collaboration and foster rapport with faculty, administrators, students and the extended community.
- The president will be dedicated to, and invested in the students of LCC by advancing and providing quality education, life skills and opportunities in the extended community.
- The president will be a leader of impeccable integrity and vision with outstanding communication, relationship-building, and change-management skills while treating all with compassion, fairness and respect.
- The president will possess a transparent management and communication style and be a positive catalyst to embrace bold new opportunities for the future, while building upon Luna's tradition of innovation.

- The president will focus on teaching and learning with a focus on student retention and completion including advocate for the specific needs of non-traditional students.
- The president will grow educational partnerships with K-12, four-year colleges and universities and business and industries to define workforce needs in line with service area needs.
- The president will ensure the proper balance between academic transfer, career technical and continuing education programs and will develop course delivery structures that respond to changing technological innovation.

Qualifications and Characteristics

- The successful candidate for president will be a visionary and ethical leader with integrity who is compassionate and intelligent with a proven track record in a time of change.
- The successful candidate will have an understanding of the history, traditions and culture of northern New Mexico or a similar size rural institution and community and is expected to live within the LCC service area.
- The successful candidate will have strong and demonstrated written and oral communication and listening skills and an understanding of strategic and campus master planning.
- The successful candidate will have the ability to inspire optimism and enthusiasm and personal courage and decisiveness.
- The successful candidate will have an understanding and the ability to develop legislative, community and donor relations.
- The ideal candidate will ultimately be dedicated to serving the long-term needs and success of LCC with integral and absolute commitment as a true advocate and champion of the school. It will be critical that the president understand current and emerging topics in higher education, related to assessment, retention and completion with a penchant for life-long learning and personal growth for themselves and all employees.
- An earned doctorate or other terminal degree from a regionally accredited university is required.
- At least three years of higher education senior level experience including experience in managing the financial and budgeting operations and possess entrepreneurial and analytical skills necessary to identify and implement new revenue opportunities. Community college experience preferred.
- Higher education teaching experience preferred but not required.

Application Process

Applicants will submit the following for review:

1. A current resumé/vita.
2. A detailed cover letter addressing opportunities, challenges, characteristics and qualifications (limit five pages).
3. A list of five professional references, including names, email address, and telephone numbers.

The target date for applications is Monday, February 15, 2021. For additional information about the search, please visit luna.edu or collegepresidentsearch.com.

Application materials should be submitted electronically to: walter@goldhillassociates.com

Gold Hill Associates is assisting with this search. For additional information, nominations or confidential inquiries, contact Dr. Walter Nolte, walter@goldhillassociates.com, (307-262-2576) or Dr. Preston Pulliams, President/CEO, Gold Hill Associates, preston@goldhillassociates.com, (503-704-3425).

History of Luna Community College

Luna Community College (LCC) is the only community college in northeastern New Mexico. It is located in the lower slopes of the majestic Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range overlooking the city of Las Vegas, New Mexico. LCC enjoys an outstanding reputation for its caliber of facilities, teaching methods, curricula, and dedication to excellence.

The college derives its name from Maximiliano Luna, who was Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Territory of New Mexico in 1899. Luna was also a Captain of the Rough Riders, U.S. Voluntary Cavalry, and a First Lieutenant of the 34th U.S. Volunteer Infantry. Many of the Rough Riders, a mounted cavalry unit that fought in Cuba during the Spanish American War, were recruited in Las Vegas. In 1929, the popular training site for the New Mexico National Guard on the outskirts of Las Vegas was renamed Camp Luna after the leader who died in the Philippines in 1899.

In 1967 an Act of the Legislature of the State of New Mexico authorized the establishment of a vocational training facility at Las Vegas, New Mexico. When LCC was founded in 1969, the new board of trustees honored Captain Maximiliano Luna by naming the school, Luna Area Vocational Technical School. In 1970, the first 5-mill levy election to fund LCC, which at the time was called Luna Vocational Technical Institute (LVTI), was held and overwhelmingly approved by the citizenry to voluntarily tax themselves in support of vocational-technical education. This provided an occupational training opportunity for the people of the following school districts: West Las Vegas Municipal Schools, Las Vegas City Schools, Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools, and Mora Independent Schools. These school districts lie within San Miguel, Guadalupe, and Mora counties. Later, the Springer Municipal Schools, Maxwell Municipal Schools and most recently, Wagon Mound Public Schools joined the mill levy. Since its inception, the college has continued to grow and develop its ability to meet the occupational needs throughout northeastern New Mexico.

In June 1987, another tribute was paid to Captain Maximiliano Luna on the LCC campus. A memorial stone monument to Luna was rededicated and now stands in front of the Technologies Building. It faces the school campus and former training grounds of the New Mexico National Guard and World War II recruits. The monument remains a lone sentinel and witness to the progress and many developments that continue to unfold at LCC. On December 18, 2000, the Board of Trustees approved the adoption of the current name, Luna Community College, to signify that the college is a comprehensive community college. LCC continues to offer a broad range of career technical, and professional education programs. On November 11, 2019 a framed proclamation honoring Captain Luna was placed on the wall outside of the president's office in the Maria H. Paiz Administration Building.