



Luna Community College has extended registration for the spring 2021 semester through 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29. For more information, call 505/454-2550 or visit luna.edu.

Years of dedication

Donna Flores Medina and Elaine Luna celebrate their upcoming retirement from Luna Community College. Flores Medina is the college's chief financial officer; Luna oversees the Area Health Education Center. Also retiring as of Feb. 1 is custodian Marvin Maestas. The LCC Staff Senate honored those retirees, plus faculty member Patricia Kuhlman and staff member Nash Segura, who retired after the Fall 2020 semester, in a Dec. 17 online gathering.

Presidential search takes shape

The board of trustees at Luna Community College has laid out a timeline for its presidential search, with the goal being to have a president in place by the end of the Spring 2021 semester.

In its Jan. 12 regular meeting, the board provided an overview of tentative dates within the search process. Dates are subject to change.

Advertising for the vacancy has been under way throughout

January, and a search committee that includes participation from various segments of the campus community — students, faculty, staff and the general public — has been composed to assist in the search. Gold Hill Associates has been contracted to oversee the process.

On Feb. 8, the search committee's work begins.

Feb. 15 is the deadline for submission of applications.

On Feb. 16, the committee and consultants begin review of applications.

On Feb. 19, the consultants meet with the committee to discuss and select semifinalists.

On Feb. 22, semifinalists are notified of their status.

On March 1, semifinalists' interviews begin.

On March 5, a non-quorum

MORE: See Page 3

Accreditation frequently asked questions



“Creating Opportunities for You!”

In November, 2020, The Higher Learning Commission removed Luna Community College’s probationary status after the college demonstrated full compliance with all requirements for accreditation. The decision came as part of the Higher Learning Commission Board of Trustees’ regular meeting.

Luna has been accredited by the HLC since 1982. The college offers approximately three dozen certificate and associate degree programs in seven departments – Allied Health Sciences, Business, Career and Technical Education, Early Childhood Education, Humanities, Nursing and STEM.

What is the Higher Learning Commission and what is the goal of an accreditation agency?

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is one of several regional accreditors that accredit colleges and universities. Its mission is “serving the common good by assuring and advancing the quality of higher learning.” HLC accredits colleges and universities in a 19-state region of the United States, including New Mexico. The U.S. Department of Education defines the goal of an accreditation agency “to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.” Accrediting agencies, which are private educational associations of regional or national scope, develop evaluation criteria and conduct peer evaluations to assess whether or not those criteria are met.

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the recognition that an institution maintains standards requisite for its graduates to gain admission to other reputable institutions of higher learning or to achieve credentials for professional practice. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by



institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.

Where can someone get more information on Luna Community College’s accreditation and the Higher Learning Commission?

A link has been set up to provide the general public with access to documents provided to the college by the Higher Learning Commission. The link can be found on the front page of the Luna Community College Website at www.luna.edu. Detailed documents related to the Higher Learning Commissions Board’s decision, as transmitted to Luna Community College, can be accessed by clicking on HLC’s Mark of Affiliation at the bottom of the college’s main landing page at www.luna.edu and following the hyperlinks to the College’s profile on HLC’s website, or by searching for Luna Community College’s profile directly on the Higher Learning Commission’s website at www.hlcommission.org.

State unveils site for COVID vaccination

Register at vaccinenm.org

Submitted to the Luna Light

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Department of Health announced on Jan. 4 that the state's vaccination website, vaccinenm.org, now enables users to complete comprehensive personal profiles. These profiles, which include personal medical conditions and employment information, along with other key data, allow the state to notify New Mexicans when vaccine doses become available in their area.

"Our highest priorities remain the same — ensuring that vaccine goes to those who are most exposed to infected people or infectious materials, and preventing vaccine from going to waste," said DOH Secretary-Designate Dr. Tracie

Collins. "(The website) vaccinenm.org allows us to contact New Mexicans and match them with local vaccination opportunities."

The site is a registration and inventory management system that enables health care partners to manage real-time vaccine demand while increasing distribution efficiency and minimizing waste. Since its release two weeks ago, vaccinenm.org has seen more than 230,000 registrations — one in every 10 New Mexicans. State officials believe it is the only system of its kind in the country.

For New Mexicans who wish to register for vaccine, the process is simple:

1. Users submit basic contact information, including their employment category and medical conditions
2. Users are then contacted

and prompted to fill out additional demographic and insurance information, at which point their profile is complete. (Vaccinations are free, but providing insurance information helps support the cost of the vaccination program.)

3. Users wait to receive a notification that they may schedule a vaccination. On the day of their appointment, they fill out a medical questionnaire about their current health.

The state will also launch a vaccine call center in the coming days, providing additional support for those who wish to register or ask questions about the process. A news release will accompany the call center launch.

Search

Continued from Page 1

representation of the board — trustees Mark Dominguez, Dr. Gilbert Sena and either Dr. Phyllis Martinez or Dianna Medrano — discusses the interviewees and

finalists are selected.

On March 8, finalists are announced by the board. Consultants gather references and commence in-depth check.

On March 29, virtual interviews with finalists are conducted.

On April 12, trustees meet to discuss interviews of the finalists and the selection.

On April 13, the board approves selection of a new president, and contract negotiations begin.

On April 20, the board formally announces the new president.

On May 10, the new president begins work.

For more on the search, see luna.edu/presidential_search.

Patterson honored for advocacy

Luna Community College's interim president has received recognition for his work on behalf of minority populations.



Dr. Kenneth Patterson has earned the Minority Advocacy Award from the Walk With Me Foundation, a non-profit based in Florence, Alabama. The award, offered in appreciation for outstanding lifetime achievement in minority advocacy, was announced Jan. 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – in a news release from the organization.

According to Dr. Terrance Brown, executive director of Walk With Me Foundation, the honor is reserved for individuals who have demonstrated “a commitment to the advancement of equity and accessibility for all learners, especially those in marginalized minority populations.”

Brown said Patterson had made notable achievements while expanding beneficial educational and career opportunities for African-American students and more recently students within a predominantly Hispanic community.

“He has consistently advocated for disenfranchised populations and continues to do so throughout his career, both on an institutional as well as on an individual basis,” Brown said in a resolution of appreciation marking the award.

Brown noted that Patterson has made presentations to high school students advocating higher education and persistence in pursuing educational and career goals, also showing community involvement and activism to elevate the issues of minority communities in public view and discourse.

“His comportment in these tasks,” Brown said, “is characterized by a proactive and positive disposition that is a credit to the higher education students and communities he has served.”

Patterson came to Luna in September 2019 as vice president of instruction and student services. He has served as interim president of the college since June 2020. Luna is a Tier 4 community college classified as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, providing academic and workforce development opportunities in northeastern New Mexico. Prior to his time at Luna, Patterson served Miles College, a Historically Black College/University, and worked with the NAACP and the Urban League of greater Birmingham (Alabama).

“I’m honored by this recognition from the Walk With Me Foundation,” said Patterson. “The work continues at Luna to continue opening doors of academic, vocational and career opportunity for all, including traditionally underrepresented populations.”

The Walk With Me Foundation is a non-profit organization with the mission of preservation of culture through the arts, according to the news release.

Luna news roundup

Luna has hired Sharon Martinez as its new director of institutional effectiveness and research. Martinez began work on Jan. 25.

Among the other positions the college is looking to fill in the near future: chief financial officer, Area Health Education Center director, branch campus and location coordinator, career services

advisor, and two custodian positions. (See luna.edu/jobs for details.)

With the planned law enforcement training center and related academic programs set to move under Career & Technical Education, Lita Bernal has agreed to serve as director of the center in addition to her role as director of the School of Business.

Interested in nursing school?

TEAS

Nursing Entrance Exam

February 2021

Test dates



Scheduling for the following dates is taking place now.

Tuesday, Feb. 2	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 9	1:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 12	10 a.m.
Thursday, Feb. 18	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 23	1:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 26	10 a.m.

*To reserve a test date,
contact:*

Yvonne Pina
505-454-2525
ypina@luna.edu

*Please provide your
phone number and
preferred exam date in
your e-mail.*

Please create an account with ATI prior to the exam date. To create an account, go to atitesting.com, click on Create Account. On the day of your exam, please arrive 10 minutes early to log in and register for the exam. You will need to bring a debit/credit card to purchase the exam (\$70 per attempt) and a photo ID for identification verification. A calculator is available in ATI, and the proctor will provide paper and pencils for use during the exam. All materials will be collected by the proctor before you leave the exam site. No late admission to testing area.



Winter wonderland at Luna





Along with much of the region, the Luna main campus has benefitted from recent snowfall. Storms have made for beautiful winter scenery while also presenting challenges to the college's maintenance and custodial crew members who have been responsive and effective in keeping the campus safe.

Photos by Larry Moore, Jesse Gallegos and Dave Kavanaugh



ACE tutors available to help students

Luna Community College students may take advantage of free tutoring services in a variety of academic subjects courtesy of the Academic Center for Excellence.

For more information, contact ACE coordinator Ray Varela, 505-454-5306, ext. 1053, or rvarela@luna.edu. The list of Spring 2021 ACE tutors is as follows.

Amber Gonzales, criminal justice and humanities, amgonzales@luna.edu; Sergio Hartshorne, humanities,

shartshorne@luna.edu; Angelina Jonsson, all areas, ajonsson@luna.edu; Jonathan Lujan, humanities and intro to information systems, jolujan@luna.edu; Brittney Mares, math and science, bmares@luna.edu; Adan Martinez, math and science, admartinez@luna.edu; Julia Olguin, allied health and humanities, jolguin@luna.edu; Auritha Roybal, math, aroybal@luna.edu; Melanie Soto-Ramos, STEM and humanities, msotoramos@luna.edu.

Join our team and help us serve our communities!

Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

FULL-TIME

- Branch campus & location coordinator ... opened Jan. 15, 2021 (INTERNAL POSTING ONLY AT THIS TIME)
- Custodian I ... opened Jan. 15, 2021

PART-TIME

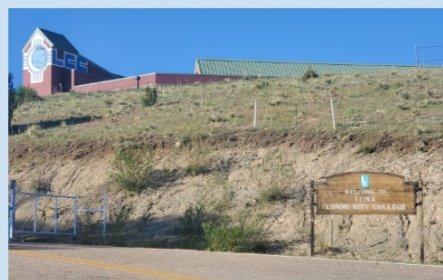
- Administrative assistant 2, Human Resources ... opened Dec. 2, 2020

TEMPORARY PART-TIME

- Preschool substitute teacher/caretaker ... opened Sept. 30, 2020

ADJUNCT (per course)

- Career & Technical Education — automotive instructor, Springer ... opened Nov. 21, 2019
- Career & Technical Education — welding instructor, Santa Rosa ... opened Oct. 31, 2019
- Career & Technical Education — CDL instructor ... opened August 28, 2019
- Career & Technical Education — collision repair instructor ... opened June 6, 2018



Most recent postings listed first. All positions open until filled unless otherwise noted. For more information on each position, please log on to our website at <https://www.luna.edu/jobs>



ONLINE & FREE!

We help you
take on
the
TEAS!

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, or 505-454-2525, to sign up or to get more information.

Workshop schedule



Free TEAS prep
Workshops

**NOW ONLINE; E-MAIL FOR
DETAILS OR TO SIGN UP**

WORKSHOP TOPIC	DATE
Intro & prep test	Feb. 16, 5 p.m.
Reading	Feb. 18, 5 p.m.
Math	Feb. 22, 5 p.m.
Science	Feb. 24, 6 p.m.
Anatomy & physiology	March 2, 5:30 p.m.
Conclusion	March 4, 5 p.m.

**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. Contact LCC Nursing Department for details.



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

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, and Dave Kavanaugh, dkavanaugh@luna.edu.

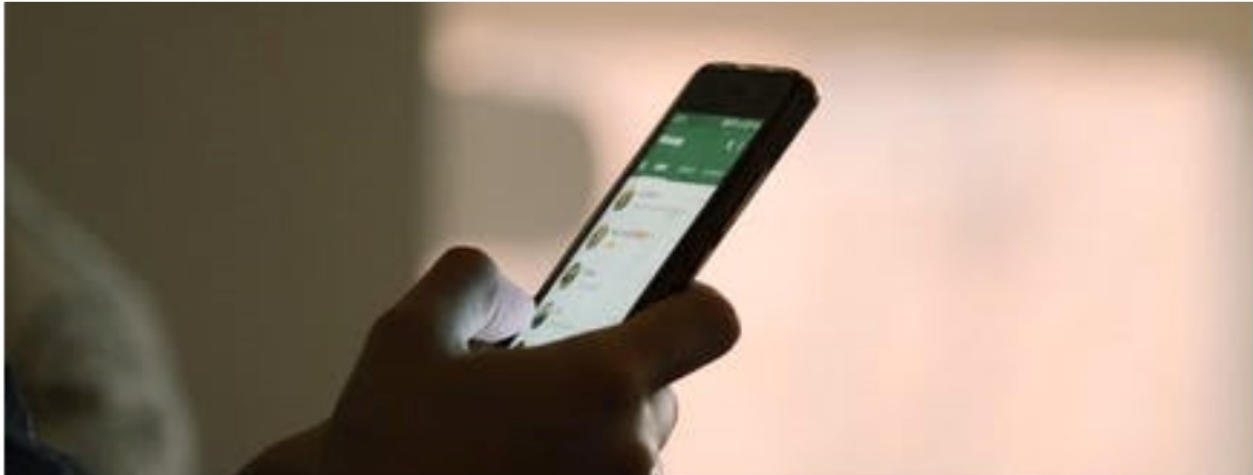
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*“Creating
Opportunities
for You!”*

We can never forget the picturesque scenery of northern New Mexico. This photo of the Pecos River was taken recently in El Valle. El Valle is in District 7 of Luna’s service area.



Stay connected this school year!



Luna RAVE alerts notify subscribers — via text message — about campus closures or delays due to inclement weather as well as other urgent matters.

To sign up for RAVE, visit the Students tab at luna.edu. There is no additional charge for this service. Standard messaging rates apply. Opt out at any time by texting STOP to 226787.



Luna @ the Legislature



Jan. 22, 2021

The 55th Legislature's regular session began on Tuesday, Jan. 19, and will end at noon March 20. Deadline for introduction of legislation is Feb. 18. Due to COVID-19 precautions, access to the Roundhouse is limited this session while both chambers are employing both teleconferencing and social distancing to conduct business.

Luna @ The Legislature, an initiative of the Luna Community College Office of Public Relations, provides a weekly update on the session to inform the campus community.

Legislation of interest to Luna Community College, filed as of publication deadline:

House Bill 2 General Appropriations Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Patricia Lundstrom ... Among other appropriations, sets aside \$867 million from general fund, \$672,300 from other state funds, \$52.9 million from internal service funds and interagency transfers, and \$10.8 million from federal funds to higher education department for spending or allocation to higher education agencies in fiscal year 2022 ... Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee.

HB 25 LESC Study of Public & Postsecondary Education, introduced Jan. 4 by G. Andres Romero ... Tasks Legislative Education Study Committee to study issues pertaining to public schools and public postsecondary education in New Mexico. Currently in House Education Committee.

HB 43 Black Education Act, introduced Jan. 5 by Sheryl Williams Stapleton ... Requires development of racial sensitivity and anti-racism training for public education and higher education. Currently in House Education Committee.

HB 83 Change Graduation Requirements, introduced Jan. 13 by G. Andres Romero ... Calls for high school students receiving opportunity to prepare next-step plans to include curricular and course options such as

dual credit, career pathways, college prep. Currently in House Education Committee.

HB 87 Yazzie Lawsuit Higher Ed Funding, introduced Jan. 14 by Derrick Lente ... Makes appropriations to state institutions of higher education and tribal colleges to comply with the Martinez & Yazzie v. New Mexico lawsuit by improving educational outcomes for certain students and families. Currently in House Education Committee.

HB 100 College & Career Readiness Systems, introduced Jan. 15 by Raymundo Lara ... Funds \$3 million for college and career readiness systems statewide and sets requirements to receive funding. Currently in House Education Committee. (See also SB 107.)

HB 101 New Mexico Lottery Educational Assistance Act, introduced Jan. 15 by Raymundo Lara, Phelps Anderson, Randall Pettigrew, Steven Neville ... Adds certain other types of gaming as potential revenue sources for state lottery educational assistance program. Currently in House Education Committee.

HB 117 General Appropriations Act of 2021, introduced Jan. 19 by Patricia Lundstrom and Nathan Small. Among other appropriations, funds \$6,984,200 for instruction and general purposes, \$1,866,600 other and \$453,200 athletics, along with \$483,800 student retention and completion, \$251,000 nurse expansion at Luna Community College. Currently in House Appropriations & Finance Committee.

HB 131 Assistant Secretary of Hispanic Education, introduced Jan. 19 by Christine Trujillo ... Creates position of assistant secretary of Hispanic education in the Higher Education Department. Currently in House Education Committee.

HB 133 College Hunger Reduction Pilot Program, introduced Jan. 19 by Joanne Ferrary, Karen Bash, Melanie Stansbury ... Appropriates \$100,000 to Higher Education Department for pilot program. Currently in

House Agriculture & Water Resources Committee.

Senate Bill 21 Retiree Health Care Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Roberto Gonzales ... Changes retiree health care act to conform to federal patient protection and Affordable Care Act. Currently in Senate Health & Public Affairs Committee.

SB 39 Names of Finalists for Executive Positions, introduced Jan. 19 by Bill Tallman ... Exempts records for certain appointive executive position applicants from public inspection pursuant to the Inspection of Public Records Act. Currently in Senate Health & Public Affairs Committee.

SB 42 Increase to Educational Retirement Contributions, introduced Jan. 19 by Mimi Stewart ... Increases certain contributions to the educational retirement fund. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 77 Two Plus Two Pilot Program, introduced Jan. 19 by Gay Kernan ... Creates regional Two Plus Two pilot project to establish seamless transition from community college to university and measure student and institutional outcomes. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 94 Student Athlete Endorsement Act, introduced Jan. 19 by Mark Moores, Bill O'Neill and Antonio Maestas ... Changes limitations against student athletes earning compensation through use of their name, image or likeness. Currently in Senate Education Committee.

SB 107 Career Readiness Systems Statewide, introduced Jan. 19 by Roberto Gonzales ... Funds \$3 million for college and career readiness systems statewide and sets requirements to receive funding. Currently in Senate Education Committee. (See also HB 100).

As of 4 p.m. Jan. 20, 2021. Compiled by Dave Kavanaugh, LCC Communications & Marketing.