

# The Luna Light



*"Creating Opportunities for You!"*

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## Luna business program No. 1 in affordability

Luna Community College's associate degree program in business administration – available online – ranks No. 1 in affordability on a list compiled by a national website that reviews online college offerings.

With annual out-of-state tuition rates at \$2,376, the Luna Community College Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration ranked No. 1 in affordability among the institutions reviewed by OnlineU for 2019. Luna full-time tuition is

\$1,248 a year for in-state, out-of-district students and \$912 a year for in-district students. OnlineU ranks postsecondary schools in the categories of affordability, accessibility and quality and serves as a resource to help students select degree programs in various academic fields.

Luna compares quite well even to the most affordable schools documented by OnlineU. Out of the 638 most affordable

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Luna's Student Senate met recently for the first time this fall. Pictured from left are Jake Taylor, vice president (computer science and pre-engineering major from Denver); Alexander Ashe, secretary-treasurer (early childhood education major from Albuquerque); Roxanne Garcia, senator (criminal justice major from Mora); Brianna Thomas, senator (media art & film technology major from Las Vegas); Theo Chavez, senator (nursing major from Las Vegas) and John Noel, president (pre-engineering major from Oakland).

# Former Luna student Jessey Martinez' short story selected to be published

Former Luna Community College graduate Jessey Martinez was recognized recently by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Martinez was one of 25 Phi Theta Kappa members who will have their writing published in the 2018 issue of Phi Theta Kappa's online literary journal, *Nota Bene*.

Martinez was one of two short story entries to receive the distinction. Her short story titled "Chile Rojo" (Red Chile) is centered around northern New Mexico and Martinez' relationship with her great grandmother and their love for red chile.

"I've always enjoyed writing," said Martinez. "I've never thought I was good enough to write, but I thought I would take a chance. I had started this paper in Patricia Crespin's public speaking class last summer. In addition, I want to thank Jonathan Lujan, a tutor at Luna, for his mentorship on this short story."

Martinez graduated from Luna, earning a degree in criminal justice with a concentration in law enforcement, this past May.

"This represents not only myself, but Luna," says Martinez. "Luna is where I evolved into someone with intellect. There are so many facets to Luna that are unexplored."

Martinez is currently New Mexico's Phi Theta Kappa regional president. Her term ends in March.

*Nota Bene* is an anthology comprised of research papers, essays, short stories, and poems. It is scheduled to be published this winter.



Jessey Martinez

"I knew I was up against some talented and intellectual individuals, which I, at times, feel that I am not quite on their levels," said Martinez.

There was a total of 520 entries.

"My hopes are that I have done the administration, my professors, and the student body well," said Martinez. "At 30 years old, I can now say that I am a published author and own the rights to my work thanks to the opportunities provided by Luna and Phi Theta Kappa. I owe the few meager successes I have had in my recent educational career to Luna and Phi Theta Kappa."

Martinez is currently a junior at New Mexico Highlands University studying political science and pre-law. She is also an associate justice with the student senate.

Martinez remains thankful to Luna.

"I am aware that these are only baby steps," says Martinez. "I

**"My hope is that other students may see this and will be convinced that they can accomplish things, convinced that they can do this, and be convinced that sharing their stories is worth more than those fleeting moments of doubt." — Jessey Martinez**

couldn't be more humble, absolutely thankful, and on the brink of tears when I think of my journey at Luna. I feel we still live in a world where Hispanics and

especially Hispanic women are seen as less than. I had to take that chance and send my writing out into the world. My hope is that other students may see this and will be convinced that they can accomplish things, convinced that they can do this, and be convinced that sharing their stories is worth more than those fleeting moments of doubt."



# Luna No. 1...

**Continued from page 1** online college programs, the annual tuition average is \$10,084, according to this website. OnlineU is a publication of SR Education Group, which manually researches and standardizes tuition data for accredited online college programs across the nation.

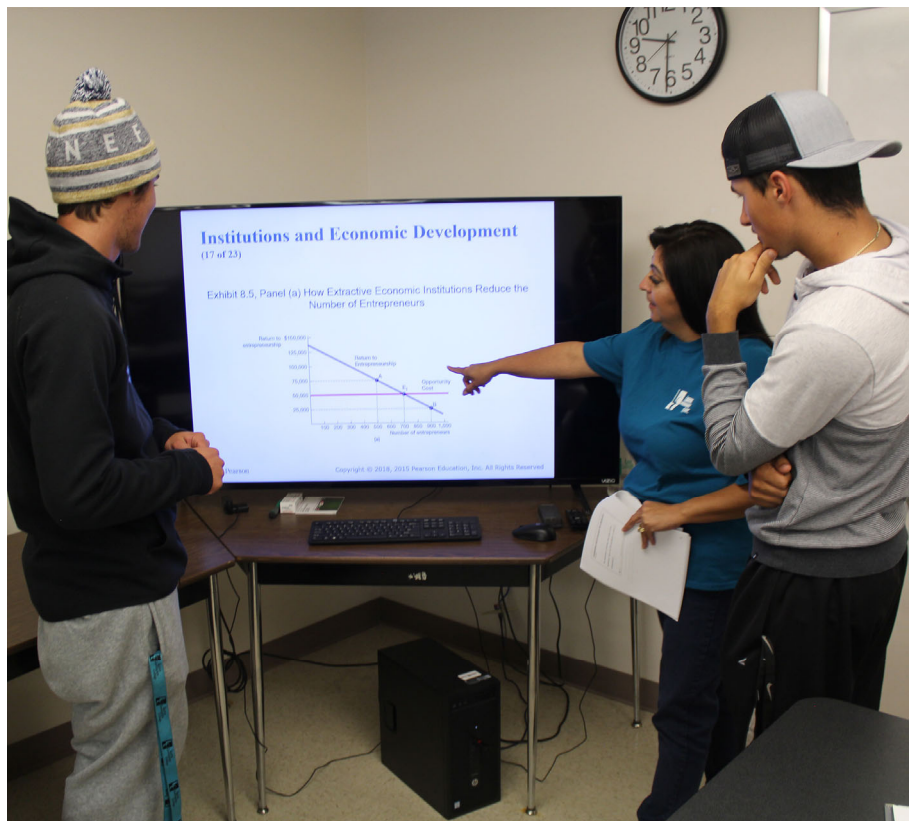
Among online associate degree programs in business, Metropolitan Community College, based in Omaha, Neb., came in second with annual tuition of \$2,400. Arkansas Northeastern College (\$2,528), Highland Community College (\$2,592) and Kansas City Kansas Community College (\$2,640) rounded out the top five. OnlineU's rankings were released in early October and reflect the most recent data available.

"As a college, Luna is a great value, and the school of business is growing," said Lita Bernal, director of the LCC School of Business. "We've expanded tremendously; we're a living, breathing entity. We've got top-notch instructors who care. They're willing to do whatever they can to help students. They will go out of their way to help students. Before we do anything, we ask ourselves, 'What's going to be best for the student?'"

The OnlineU No. 1 ranking may help strengthen the notion that Luna is an exceptional value for college students beginning their postsecondary journeys.

Dominick Quintana, a business major from San Jose, N.M., who expects to graduate this May, said he chose to attend Luna for its affordability but has been pleased by its value. "It's very affordable, but you get the same quality of education as colleges that are a lot more expensive," he said. "I really feel comfortable with my decision to attend Luna. There are smaller classes, so you get more one-on-one contact with faculty. And there are tutors to help you, also."

Quintana said he plans to continue his



**Luna School of Business instructor Brenda Wagoner talks with students Tyler Burch and Keaton Christy in a macroeconomics class.**

education by pursuing a bachelor's degree at the University of New Mexico.

LCC offers associate of applied science degrees in both business administration and accounting, an associate of arts in general business, and a certificate in business management. Associate degree programs include core competencies that are aligned with the New Mexico Collegiate Business Articulation Consortium, enabling program graduates to easily transfer and continue their education at four-year institutions.

For more information on the LCC School of Business, those interested are invited to contact director Lita Bernal (505-454-5337, [lbernal@luna.edu](mailto:lbernal@luna.edu)) or adviser Brenda Wagoner (505-454-5354, [bwagoner@luna.edu](mailto:bwagoner@luna.edu)). For more on Luna's other academic and vocational programs, call 505-454-2500, 1-800-588-7232, or visit [luna.edu](http://luna.edu).



# Luna students, employees enjoy Halloween



Luna employees showcased Halloween spirit this year, transforming into creepy creatures or funny figures and decorating their offices and hallways.

At left, Sandra Rivera, Levitt Baca, Germaine Baca, Leticia Archuleta and Carolyn Chavez welcome passersby to their sinister circus in the administration building.



Instructor Sara Vigil, students Carmelita Sanchez, Isaiah Fernandez, Latricia Sanchez and Mora Site Office Manager Stacy Montoya have fun in Mora.



Above, "The Admin Family" revives memories of the 1960s TV series "The Addams Family." Wednesday (Dr. Sharon Lalla), Pugsley (Jesse Gallegos), Grandmama (Mary Duran), Morticia (Sheryl Yara), Cousin Itt (Maxine Salas) and Uncle Fester (Dave Kavanaugh) conjure up a good time.

At right, Humanities students, faculty and staff gather for a group photo during the department's Halloween meal on Oct. 31.



Emily Ulibarri and Joe Salas of Luna's Santa Rosa Satellite participate in the City of Santa Rosa's Halloween festivities.







With Campus Life's Janice Medrano (below) and a crew of volunteers leading the way, Luna staged a successful haunted asylum for three nights at the old agriculture building. Luna also hosted the popular Trunk or Treat for area children. The events lured hundreds to the campus.



Clockwise from far left, Brittany White, Dyani Cummings-Lani, Anthony Aragon, Germaine Sandoval, Lucy Madrid, Melissa Cordova and Ernissa Romero were among those who got into the Halloween spirit across the main campus.





Luna's Introduction to Theater class this semester has seen its largest group in quite a while. The class is composed of student-athletes, theater artists, mothers, brothers, and people from all corners of the country. Together, this group has created a fun, engaging, exciting, and contemplative team as they move from project to project. The class is taught by Patricia Crespin, who has always believed in a hands-on approach. This approach gives students the tasks of acting, playwriting, directing, designing, and a final that involves a full collaboration throughout the semester.



Luna students Tim Baca (left) and John Perea work on ornamental art recently during a welding level I class in Santa Rosa. There are currently eight students taking the class this fall. For more information on Luna classes being taught through Luna in Santa Rosa, call Luna's Santa Rosa Satellite Director Joe Salas at 575-472-1400.







Luna Humanities Department students recently engaged in a mock court session based on the actual case of Jackson vs. State. This exercise was hosted by instructors Nathan Baker and Jason Killian as a hybrid class session for English 106 & Criminal Justice 111. Assigned criminal justice students argued for the defense and the prosecution. English students asked questions and took notes as the basis for forthcoming analytical essays on the persuasive tactics involved in a courtroom. The jury was composed of volunteers from faculty, staff, and students.

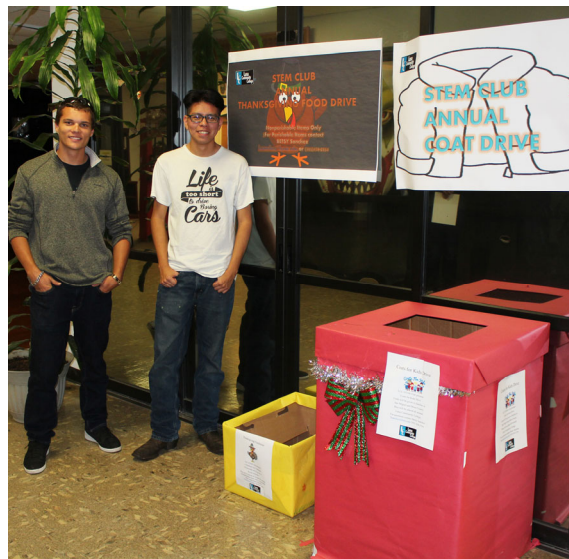
## Luna STEM Club asking for Thanksgiving and coat donations

The Luna Community College STEM Club is asking for donations of Thanksgiving food and coats and other winter clothing that will be distributed to Luna students.

“Our goal is to provide 25 Thanksgiving dinners and collect as many coats as we can which will be given out to Luna students,” said STEM President Jake Taylor. “If we have any items left after giving these out to Luna students we will reach out to any community members in need.”

The STEM Club has placed 12 donation bins around campus. Anyone wishing to donate any Thanksgiving food items or coats can anonymously place the items in these bins.

“Most of what we do for our club is to give back to our campus and community,” said Taylor. “A



Luna STEM Club President Jake Taylor along Erik Benigno Hidalgo are pictured in front of one of 12 donations bins that have been placed around campus.

big part of what we do is to assist our fellow students and do as many good deeds as we can. We have many collaborative efforts to make this school on the hill a little bit better. We want those that need a little assistance to have a great Thanksgiving and be warm when winter months come along.”

Taylor said the STEM Club is still accepting new members. To be a member, an individual has to be a student at either Luna or New Mexico Highlands University.

“We welcome all students, regardless of what certificate or degree they are earning,” said Taylor.

For more information on the Thanksgiving and Coat Drive or on the STEM Club, call Taylor at 505-652-9219 or e-mail him at [jake.taylor@student.luna.edu](mailto:jake.taylor@student.luna.edu).

# Dorothy Simpson going strong after 50 years of teaching

Dr. Dorothy Simpson has been teaching for 50 years. There is a reason for her successful five-decade run – in simple terms, she loves to teach.

“I never planned on teaching for 50 years,” says Simpson. “I’m going to be 75 in February, so I’m not that young, but I don’t feel old. I had an aunt that taught English courses until she was 89. After this, she was still able to tutor students. She passed away at age 94.”

Simpson teaches speech courses at Luna Community College as an adjunct professor. She has been at Luna for the last 15 years. Life at times is ironic, as is the case with Simpson.

“I was very shy in high school and after I took beginning speech in college it opened my eyes,” says Simpson.

It’s obvious that Simpson is a good communicator, but how has she been able to have the same enthusiasm as always?

“I have empathy for students,” says Simpson. “When it’s all said and done, I want to be remembered as a good Christian, mother, grandmother and a good worker; that’s about it.”

Simpson’s career has taken her from a job as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Utah in 1965, to West Las Vegas High School in 1967, to Santa Rosa High School for the next three years and then to New Mexico Highlands University for 28 years. At one point, Dr. Simpson was the associate dean of arts and sciences. Simpson took a couple of years off between jobs.

Her advice to all teachers: “Don’t let politics and red tape bother you. Never mind all the other stuff. Always keep students in mind.”



Luna adjunct instructor Dr. Dorothy Simpson has been teaching for 50 years.

Being a successful teacher comes easy to someone like Simpson. Simpson knew she wanted to teach since age 9.

“I lie awake at night thinking of my lesson plans,” says Simpson. “My favorite part of this profession is when students participate and learn from each other. Although I’ve been teaching for a long time, I don’t feel like I’ve slowed down.”

Simpson has the same energy today as she did 50 years ago, but one thing for sure, she is old-school, especially when it comes to technology’s impact on communication.

“With all the new technology, as a society we don’t communicate as well,” says Simpson. “There is not much one-on-one direct

communication anymore. With all the texting and internet, students spend too much time on technology and not as much time communicating like they should. Direct communication is still important.”

Perhaps part of what has kept Simpson’s success going over the span of five decades is her attitude.

“I’m a happy person,” says Simpson. “I had a happy childhood and we didn’t have a lot of money. I’ve been able to keep that mindset of being happy throughout my career. I like everybody, unless they give me a reason not to. I look for the good in people.”

From the looks of it, don’t be surprised if Simpson continues teaching into a sixth decade.

“I love to teach,” says Simpson. “There is always a student that challenges me and I don’t want to let them down.”