

The latest news from Luna Community College

Second Volume 4, Issue 18 Sept. 14, 2021



Luna Community College students and employees enjoyed a COVID-safe pizza picnic sponsored by the college on Sept. 1 at the campus courtyard. Pictured here are Luna students Mackenzie Gonzales and Annalea Lucero. The picnic celebrated the start of Fall 2021 semester; classes began on Aug. 23. For more images from the picnic, please see Pages 6-7.

Enrollment up 19 percent from last fall

Luna Community College is reporting an increase in enrollment this fall semester.

College reports show a 19 percent increase in headcount for Fall 2021 compared to Fall 2020. There are 807 students enrolled compared to the

676 of one year ago.

The number of full-time students is also up, 274 compared to 217. That's a 26 percent increase.

The figures are from the Census Day enrollment report.

"We are encouraged by these

reports and are glad that our students are returning to Luna," said President Dr. Edward Martinez. "Everyone on campus is committed to helping each student succeed in their individual educational journey. We thank our students for choosing Luna."

Work by Luna's Grohman, others in national publication



Project explores how state's nursing programs have overcome COVID challenges

Being forced to operate amid the upheaval created by COVID-19 led to some innovative solutions and new directions for nursing faculty across New Mexico.

Such experiences and insights were shared in "Nursing Education: From Classroom To Computers," an article co-authored by Susan Grohman, a nursing instructor at Luna Community College.

The article, a research project initiated by the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC), was published in the *Journal of Professional Nursing* and ScienceDirect, nationally read and recognized scholarly publications. Grohman's co-authors included Judy Liesveld and Mary Wright of the University of New Mexico, Kimberly Petrovic of Western New Mexico University, and Teresa Leon of New Mexico State University.

"When the pandemic hit, there was a lot of stress we heard from the students, and a lot of stress from the faculty," Grohman recalled. "We met to begin to problem-solve."

When the COVID pandemic struck the U.S. in the middle of the Spring 2020 semester, schools across the country were forced to close campuses and move operations online. That in turn forced faculty to learn new ways to adapt and continue teaching. As documented in the article, instructors developed web-based

"The whole pandemic is such a learning experience. Students don't realize how flexible they have to be as nurses."

Susan Grohman
Luna nursing instructor

MORE: See Page 3

Continued from Page 2

teaching resources, computer-based clinical checklists, computer-based simulations and other methods.

Grohman acknowledged that many faculty members had to learn how to teach online — and how to teach online almost exclusively — which presented a challenge.

“A lot of schools purchased virtual simulation (software), including Luna. The students would use the online simulators. Then we would get together and debrief ... Instructors who were teaching skills would record themselves, and students would view the recordings. Class and mentor meetings were online. We’d break up students into groups and then come back to Blackboard to gather. You can still almost replicate the classroom really closely.”

Another curveball was providing clinical training to student nurses while most hospitals and other facilities were restricting access due to COVID. While working with those facilities to gain whatever access was available, schools provided clinical hours in a virtual setting, and the state Board of Nursing made allowances for up to 70 percent of the clinical requirement to be completed virtually, Grohman noted. Many hospitals hiring new grads incorporated longer orientation periods.

One unforeseen benefit that came from the pandemic was the opportunity for student nurses to gain practical clinical experience from helping with the state Department of Health’s vaccination clinics and COVID testing. Luna nursing students found themselves playing a vital role in fighting the pandemic and helping society on a broader scale than would have been otherwise possible.

“The whole pandemic is such a learning experience,” Grohman said. “Students don’t realize how flexible they have to be as nurses. But (abrupt changes to conditions and demands) happens in the real world. It’s made them realize life is not just black and white. You have to be flexible. You have to be able to change at a moment’s notice. It’s true for faculty too. We all have to be flexible.”

And resourceful — as in borrowing a facility or parking lot with reliable WiFi to connect for a class or



Luna nursing students took a lead role in helping the New Mexico Department of Health in its COVID vaccination effort within the past year.

assignment, in case home lacks that connectivity. And persistent — as in scheduling virtual office hours as needed for meetings between faculty and students.

“Now that the students are able to get back out into the community (i.e. for clinical rotations), it’s going to be very rewarding for them. They’re going to have to be aware of using masks and washing hands and meeting requirements. You wear personal protective equipment with a MRSA patient; now you wear it with other patients as well. But the students are excited to get back out there.”

An additional finding from the project is that nursing instructors and program directors have increasingly learned the value of collaboration with peers to share resources and ideas.

Representatives of the state’s nursing programs and members of NMNEC “mobilized quickly to collaborate, share resources, and problem-solve complex issues facing their nursing programs,” the article noted. “Rich information and outcomes resulted from the weekly remote meetings.”

NMNEC’s foresight and quick response — initiating the projects as early as April 2020, amid the wave of shutdowns — aimed to provide practical solutions that could be shared across the state. The resultant research and insights were quickly published as well, so they

MORE: See Page 4

Continued from Page 3

could benefit others beyond New Mexico's nursing programs.

"There's all kinds of implications where things can be used," Grohman said. "It's changed a lot of the way nursing education is approached. Now that we have the ability to go online, there's no more snow days! We have other resources to get them out of the classroom to where we need to be."

And while the jury's still out on how well the adjustments and adaptations have worked, especially for the cohort of students whose primary training took place during the shutdown, the initial students have been able to pass their board exams.

Grohman first came to Luna in 2011-13 and has been working as part of the nursing faculty since 2015. She's working on her PhD and found value in collaborating with nursing educators who have already attained doctorates and who've published research before. This project, she said, has opened her mind to other research

possibilities, which in turn has informed her work in the classroom.

"It's done a lot for me," she said. "In class I often start by saying, 'Research shows ...' In nursing we deal in evidence-based practices, so this (just takes it further)."

The published research of which Grohman was a contributor is bearing fruit as a resource used across the country. Lucia Gomez-Vaughan, a fellow nursing instructor at Luna, referenced the article as she completed work on her master's degree.

Research may be invigorating for Grohman, but she said she continues to be motivated by the opportunity to help students grow and develop.

"I like teaching them," she said, "and seeing them go from where they don't know what they're doing to where the light bulb comes on ... to where they're passing the boards and the NCLEX (the national nursing licensure exam)."

"And we have a good nursing faculty here and a lot of support."



Sundown in San Miguel

Photo of the Edition: After a late-summer rainstorm, the skies of San Miguel County are breathtakingly beautiful.

Luna students earn CDL credentials



Luna Community College students passed their state exam on Tuesday, Sept. 7. Pictured from left are Cody Stumberg, Joshy Molina, Santiago Gallegos and Luna CDL instructor Florencio Garcia. "They all did what they were instructed and are ready to move on to the next part of their career," said Garcia. As part of the Luna CDL instruction, students take three weeks of theory class and four weeks of driving class. The driving portion of the program includes driving on the highway and in different cities. For more information on Luna's CDL class, please call 505-454-2530.

Join our team and help us serve our communities!

Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

FULL-TIME

- Humanities and School of Business director ... opened Sept. 3, 2021
- Office manager, Athletics ... opened Sept. 3, 2021
- Allied Health Sciences director ... opened Aug. 31, 2021
- Financial aid director ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- Faculty and staff, College & Career Readiness Institute ... opened July 21, 2021
- Technical electrician ... opened July 14, 2021

TEMPORARY PART-TIME

- College & Career Readiness Institute math and language arts instructors (2) ... opened Aug. 19, 2021
- ACE tutor (6) ... opened Aug. 16, 2021

- Wellness Center technician ... opened July 2, 2021
- Preschool substitute teacher/caretaker ... opened June 29, 2021

ADJUNCT (per course)

- CTE furniture and cabinet making instructor, Santa Rosa ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE furniture and cabinet making instructor, Springer ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE furniture and cabinet making instructor, main campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE commercial drivers license theory instructor, main campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE commercial drivers license driving instructor, main campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE welding instructor, main

campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021

- CTE department welding instructor, Springer ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE auto technology instructor, Springer ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE auto technology instructor, main campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021
- CTE department collision repair instructor, main campus ... opened Aug. 26, 2021

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

Picnic marks successful start to Fall '21



Luna students and employees participated in a Back to School Pizza Picnic hosted by the college on Sept. 1 in the courtyard on campus. They enjoyed pizza and other refreshments and played games while marking the return to campus for Fall 2021. A number of Luna employees contributed to the success of the picnic by helping set up, serve and break down.





How to save a life

Luna student Ashley Martinez works under the guidance of instructor Gloria Pacheco in learning skills for Basic Life Support and CPR certification on Friday, Sept. 3. Pacheco is the dental assisting administrator for the college.



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.

Student senate seeks candidates

Luna Community College Student Government is seeking candidates to serve for the 2021-22 school year.

An election for the following positions -- President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Senator(s) -- will be held on Sept. 20 at the Humanities Department. More details will be announced.

In order to be eligible to run for the executive officer positions (President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer), you must have and maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher and be enrolled

in at least six credit hours. In order to be eligible to run for Senator, you must have and maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher and be enrolled in at least six credit hours.

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please e-mail your full name and office sought to Luna Student Government advisor Kimberly Baca at kbaca@luna.edu no later than 5 p.m. Sept. 15.

Please also include a JPG with a clear photograph of yourself that will be placed on the election announcement materials.



Covid-19 Guidelines Phase 4

In accordance with guidelines issued by the New Mexico Governor's Office, the NM Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), compliance with the following guidelines are required of all individuals on the Luna Community College (LCC) campus. This protocol is implemented to ensure the safety of the LCC campus community. If you do not comply with this safety protocol, entry into offices and classrooms may be refused.

Guidelines for Luna Community College

- Masks are required indoors for all persons on campus.
- Employees may remove masks while alone in a closed office.
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly.
- Practice Respiratory Etiquette.
- Utilize sanitizing stations.
- Socially distance a minimum of six (6) feet in indoor setting and three (3) feet in classrooms
- Masks are not required outdoors.



Covid-19 Guidelines Phase 4

In accordance with guidelines issued by the New Mexico Governor's Office, the NM Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), compliance with the following guidelines are required of all individuals on the Luna Community College (LCC) campus. This protocol is implemented to ensure the safety of the LCC campus community. If you do not comply with this safety protocol, entry into offices and classrooms may be refused.

Instructor Guidelines for Classroom Activity

- All students are required to sign in before each class and must include their current phone number.
- Individuals shall sanitize their hands upon entering the classroom (supplies are provided).
- Students shall wear masks while in the classroom.
- Should a student refuse to wear a mask while in the classroom, the student will be asked to leave.
- The instructor shall wear a mask at all times.
- All individuals in the classroom shall socially distance a minimum of 3 feet in all directions.
- Instructors will ensure all high touch surfaces shall be sanitized after use (such as desktops, chairs, doorknobs, door facings, handrails, etc., supplies are provided).

Never give up; always have hope

Do you remember when you were in the second grade and a teacher or coach would tell us to have a good attitude? That same advice is still valuable as adults. A good attitude can go a long way.

When things don't go our way, there are many choices to make. Perhaps the best choice is not to give up and to keep on trying.

We should also learn how to be grateful for what we have and not be so concerned about what we don't.

Perhaps just as important is to always have hope.

With the world battling COVID-19 for nearly two years now, things have gotten that much more complicated. But we've come a long way. We keep on trying. We keep hope going.

Having hope does not mean everything will be perfect; rather, hope is an assurance that each and every one of us is important and provides us encouragement

Just a thought

By Jesse Gallegos

that something great is awaiting us. Every morning that we wake up is another opportunity to help one another. It could be providing water and food to someone who is thirsty or hungry. Even simpler, we can provide words of encouragement and kindness to others.

We can't give up on making this a better world. A world with less division. A world with less restlessness. A world with more joy. A world with less wars. A world with more peace. A world where we lend a hand when we see someone struggling, regardless of their race or religion.

The present and the future will rely on each of us. Each of us has to decide for our self.

Make the best of today. Make the best of tomorrow. Make the best of the rest of your life.

Jesse Gallegos is coordinator of the Luna Community College Office of Public Relations.

Fall ball for the Rough Riders



Luna softball Coach Steve Wallace provides instruction to his team during a scrimmage on Saturday.

Luna Community College

College and Career Readiness Institute

Adult Education Program

We offer ...

- Adult education for learners 16 years and older
- Preparation for High School Equivalency, better known as the GED or HiSET exam
- Exploration of college and career pathways
- A pipeline to Luna Community College certificate and degree programs
- Classes to improve reading, writing and math skills for high school graduates
- Classes in foundational computer skills as well as English language reading, writing and speaking skills
- Proven methods to improve life and employment

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How much does it cost?

A: Nothing!

Q: How do I register for classes?

A: Registration is ongoing and completed at <https://forms.gle/WiNER9hS7inzgT9h6> or you can come in to one of our sites and complete the registration in person.

Q: Where are you located?

A: We have sites in Las Vegas, Mora, Raton and Santa Rosa.

Q: What type of classes are being offered?

A: Reading, writing and math, digital literacy and job skills classes. We offer face-to-face, online and distance learning.

Q: When do classes start?

A: We follow the LCC academic calendar with both eight-week face-to-face and online classes starting Aug. 23, Oct. 18, 2021, and Jan. 17 and March 21, 2022.

For more information:

505-454-2564

lbentson@luna.edu

Achieve a better future ... one step at a time.

