

The latest news from Luna Community College

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Luna Community College students and employees traveled to Isotopes Park in Albuquerque on April 26. As part of the trip, they were able to chat with Isotope players and management. For more photos, see pages 4 and 5.

Luna postpones graduation

Luna Community College’s (Luna) spring graduation ceremony scheduled for Saturday, May 14 will be postponed to Saturday, July 30, due to fire danger in the area.

“The uncertainty and devastation this wildland fire has brought to our communities makes it impossible to hold a graduation ceremony in two weeks’ time. But we don’t want our students and their families to miss out

on this celebration of their success. Therefore, Luna is postponing, rather than canceling the Spring 2022 graduation ceremony,” said Luna President, Dr. Edward Martinez.

“While this fire is the kind of disaster that challenges us all, Luna is dedicated to demonstrating the resilience and community spirit it takes to get through this difficult time.”

25 percent of Luna’s main campus is being utilized by the U.S. Forestry’s Incident Command Post

Rachel Lucero says she likes diversity of students at Luna

The following is a one-on-one interview with Luna faculty member Rachael Lucero.

Q: Name:
A: Rachael Lucero

Q: Position:
A: STEM Chemistry and Biology Instructor, faculty senator for STEM and Business, and Assessment Committee Chair.

Q: What year did you start working for Luna?

A: I started working at LCC in the summer of 2016 as an adjunct instructor for Allied Health teaching Microbiology, which was one of the subjects I focused on in my undergraduate degree.

Q: What do you like most about Luna and why?

A: What I like the most about Luna is our students. Our student body is so diverse. I genuinely enjoy working with non-traditional students because they have life experience that makes them approach education in a very resolute way. Our high school students are typically students that approach education with so much enthusiasm, it inspires me. The other students who take my classes are typically students who have tried the course that I teach at other intuitions and have not been successful so when they take my class, they approach my subjects with so much hesitancy and I get to watch them open up and start to enjoy science, this makes me proud of the work that I do.

Q: What does your job entail; what does



Luna's Rachael Lucero teaches biology and chemistry at Luna.

a day at Luna look like for you?

A: Like many faculty at LCC, my job has lot of responsibilities like advising students in my program and developing new material for my classes. As the chemistry and biology faculty I also have the responsibility of making up labs and ensuring we have functioning lab space, equipment, and new chemicals. In STEM we also have the added obligation of doing something crazy at least once a year. Our director usually ropes us into new adventures. In the time I have been at Luna we have hosted several summer camps, magic shows, STEM days, robot rodeos, and MESA tours that involve explosions. No two days are the same for any STEM member.

Q: Favorite food and why?

A: I don't think that I have a favorite food. I consider myself a foodie mostly because my chemistry skills transfer to the kitchen. I like to experiment with different recipes all of the time and I enjoy trying new things. Nothing that I make is ever the same twice, so it's hard

to have a favorite. My current obsession is honey chipotle glazed ribs.

Q: Favorite TV show and why?
A: The Big Bang Theory because it's funny and the science is accurate.

Q: Where would you like to see yourself in five years?

A: Continuing to educate people and help the school develop and reach the goals we have set for ourselves and maybe teaching community education courses in gardening on the side.

Q: What is your greatest strength?

A: I think my greatest strength is my curiosity. The simple ability to ask why something works the way it does and the ability and patience to do the research makes a world of difference.

Q: What would you consider your biggest accomplishment in life and why?

A: Most people assume that my biggest accomplishment would have been getting three degrees in science, a Bachelor's of Arts in Chemistry, a Bachelor's of Science in Biology, and a Master's of Science in Biology; however, I think that my biggest accomplishment to this point is the impact that I have had with my students. I have several students who have finished or are currently finishing their degrees at different universities and going for Master's degrees or are writing books or working in their

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Rachel Lucero...

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chosen field. It fills me with pride to see them doing well and succeeding, each one of them has a different version of success and it's been incredible to be a tiny piece of their lives.

Q: What do you consider a good day in your life?

A: A good day for me is any day where I can sit and enjoy the beauty of New Mexico. I am so blessed to live where I live and to be able to see the landscapes and animals that I do on my way to and from work.

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of working at Luna?

A: Outside of work I enjoy traveling, seeing new places. One of my goals has been to visit every state in the United States. Currently, I need 15 more states. My travels lately have focused on areas in New Mexico that people travel from all over the world to see. Our state is pretty amazing, and I think a lot of New Mexicans don't realize what we have in our back yard.

Luna hosts successful Girls Can event



Nearly 200 fifth grade girls from school districts in San Miguel, Mora, Colfax and Guadalupe counties participated in a Girls Can event at Luna Community College on Wednesday, April 20. Girls Can is an initiative of the American Association of University Women. The fifth graders participated in 16 workshops or presentations with individuals who have had success in various fields. The presenters spoke to students about their experiences and opportunities available through education and career pathways. Pictured here is Luna nursing faculty member Susan Grohman giving a presentation in Luna's nursing simulation lab.

Luna students, employees enjoy visit to Isotopes Park





Join our team and help us serve our communities!

Employment opportunities

Positions available at Luna Community College

FULL-TIME

- College & Career Readiness Institute faculty and staff ... opened March 24
- Student services specialist, nursing ... opened March 23
- Nursing instructor ... opened March 21
- Admissions counselor, communication ... opened March 21
- Admissions counselor, campus life ... opened March 16
- Vice president of finance and administration ... opened March 11
- Procurement specialist ... opened March 2
- Assistant softball coach ... opened Feb. 9
- Student success specialist (2) ... opened Dec. 13
- Allied Health Sciences: Dental assisting instructor ... opened Nov. 16

PART-TIME

- Custodian I, Santa Rosa ... opened Jan. 13

TEMPORARY PART-TIME

- CTE: CDL instructor ... opened March 24
- CTE: Welding student lab assistant, hourly ... opened Jan. 21
- Preschool substitute teacher/caretaker ... opened June 29

ADJUNCT (per course)

- Allied Health Sciences: Certified Nursing Assistant instructor ... opened Feb. 9
- Allied Health Sciences: Dental assisting instructor ... opened Dec. 6
- CTE: Furniture & cabinet making instructor ... opened Nov. 15
- CTE: Welding instructor, Springer ... opened Oct. 25
- CTE: Furniture & cabinet making instructor, Santa Rosa ... opened Oct. 25

- CTE: Furniture & cabinet making instructor, Springer ... opened Oct. 25
- CTE: Welding instructor ... opened Oct. 25
- CTE: Auto technology instructor, Springer ... opened Aug. 26
- CTE: Auto technology instructor ... opened Aug. 26
- CTE: Auto collision repair instructor ... opened Aug. 26

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.



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.



As part of a northern New Mexico tradition, many begin watering their fields around mid April. This particular photo of the edition, was taken on April 15 in Sena, N.M.

A thank you from Dr. Martinez

I want to thank each Luna faculty and staff member for helping our students during this time of disruption caused by the wildland fires in northern New Mexico. Your commitment to excellence is commendable. I also want to give a special thank you to our students. Thank you for your patience and your dedication during this difficult time. We are committed to helping you in any way we can. Thank you.



Luna Community College held a pizza/registration party on Wednesday, April 27. Students had the opportunity to meet with faculty and advisors, sign up for summer and fall classes and enjoy pizza, soda and other snacks. Look for more registration information next week.

Luna being proactive

The following message was sent on behalf of Luna President Dr. Edward Martinez earlier this week. Thank you.

Due to the movement of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon wildfire, the Luna Community College campus will be closed until further notice. Although the college has embraced the versatility of virtual instruction for quarantines and snow days, the evacuations make it difficult for many of our faculty and students to move to an online format in order to complete their classes.

Therefore, all faculty are asked to reach out to their students and make arrangements for completing the semester in the fashion that best supports student success. Faculty who do not currently have the resources to communicate with their students should contact their Division Director for assistance.

Nursing classes will resume May 9 and Nursing class finals will be given the week of May 16. Students should contact their instructors to find out if classes and finals will take place virtually or at alternate locations.

The Nursing pinning ceremony has been postponed.

The exact date and the location will be provided to all participants at a later date.

Cosmetology classes will not resume this semester. Any student who does not have the requisite number of contact hours for this semester will be allowed to make up the hours during the next semester.

All other classes will follow the completion plan identified by the course instructor.

Students who have equipment or supplies on campus will be allowed to return for them once the campus has reopened.

Luna Community College is dedicated to preparing our students for success. During this difficult time, our faculty, our staff and our students are demonstrating the collaboration and innovation it takes to rise above adversity and continue to strive for excellence!

Note: Luna has secured working space for employees in room G-28 on the Highlands campus.

Please see your email, our website, our Facebook page and our Rave texts for more updates.

Community resource links

The following are community resource links for students and :

The first two links are from the 100% San Miguel Initiative.

<https://www.tenvitalservicesnm.org/san-miguel-choose-service/>

<https://www.100nm.org/sanmiguel/housing/>

This is information from New Mexico Highlands University's daily update on fire information.

<https://www.nmhu.edu/hermit/>

[This is information for HELP NM](#)

<https://helpnm.com/locations-2/>

Mora Valley Clinic

<http://mvchs.org/>

State of New Mexico Human Services Department

<https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/>

Luna thanks NMHU for providing working space for our employees.



Luna's logo was displayed several times during pre-game activities at Isotopes Park recently. Luna's commercial featuring Luna students and employees is also being played before and during each home game.