

The latest news from Luna Community College

Second Volume 4, Issue 11 June 4, 2021

Congresswoman Leger Fernández visits Luna Community College

Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández, who represents New Mexico’s Third Congressional District, recently visited Luna Community College. Leger Fernández is in her first term in Congress.

A native of Las Vegas, Leger Fernández said she is very proud to represent northern New Mexico.

“You cannot describe the emotion I have about having the awesome responsibility to represent this place that is not only the beautiful place I call home but the place that is lodged in every cell of my memory and of my body,” said Leger Fernández. “This is the place



Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández talks about the importance of community colleges.

that I am from, and the idea that I can take that to D.C. makes me very proud.”

Leger Fernández said she has already met personally with

President Joe Biden.

“It is wonderful to be with a president who recognizes that now is the moment for us to redirect where this country is headed,” said Leger Fernández. “He understands that places like Las Vegas, that have working families, are our future and we need to reinvest in them. I got to meet with the president in the Oval Office as part of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Every issue we raised to him — from investing in colleges so we would have Latino doctors, nurses and medical technicians to addressing the issue at the border — he was receptive.

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Home run

Luna freshman softball player Victoria Gonzales is welcomed back to home plate by cheering teammates after she added to her team-high home run total in a home game May 4. Gonzales led Region 9 in fielding percentage. For more league leaders and honors, see page 7.

Congresswoman

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He was fun to talk to. It was like having a conversation with someone who cares about your community.”

Continued and increased funding to Luna and other colleges is a goal of the congresswoman.

“What I can do is at a national level is increase the amount of funding that is available for places like Luna; increase the amount of funding for students who come to Luna,” said Leger Fernández. “When you have those additional resources, then Luna can grow and pursue the kinds of courses and programs that it knows will make a difference for students.”

Leger Fernández said she enjoyed her visit with Luna.

“One of the things I liked learning while I was here was how

involved Luna is with the surrounding communities,” said Leger Fernández. “What I understand from my tour, is that Luna sees itself as part of the community. It honors the ‘community’ in ‘community college.’”

The congresswoman said Luna plays an important role in higher education.

“I see community colleges as a vital place because this is where students are going to feel comfortable because they are in their own community,” said Leger Fernández. “Students can also choose how far they want to go. ‘Do I want to get a certification or do I want to get my two years here and take it to a higher level?’ Luna gives choice, options and opportunity.”

Leger Fernández said she will take what she learned here back to

“I see community colleges as a vital place because this is where students are going to feel comfortable...”

Teresa Leger Fernández
U.S. Congresswoman

Washington, D.C.

“I came personally to Luna so that I could hear what Luna is doing and what Luna needs, and I want to take that story with me to Washington, D.C., as an example of how we need to invest in community colleges. He (President Biden) is going to listen, our colleagues on the education and labor committees are going to listen, and my Democratic caucus is going listen. I will make sure I mention Luna to the Speaker.”



Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández talks with Luna STEM Director Francisco Apodaca (left) and Luna Acting President Morris Madrid. Leger Fernández toured Luna’s main campus recently.

Summer classes start June 7!

NOW'S THE TIME TO GET STRONGER. ENROLL TODAY.

We are excited to help you pursue and achieve your dreams in 2021 and beyond.

Whether you're seeking training to get into the workforce, working toward a higher academic degree, or simply wanting to broaden your horizons and learn something new, Luna is here to help you build a stronger future.

SUMMER & FALL 2021 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Summer '21 classes start June 7. Register now through June 11.

Fall '21 registration continues through Aug. 30; fall classes start Aug. 23.

Tuition rates at Luna are consistently recognized among the best values in the country, and financial aid is available.

Visit LUNA.edu for details, or call 505-454-2500 or 1-800-588-7232.



Romero graduates both WLV, Luna

Dual credit program helps her get a strong start

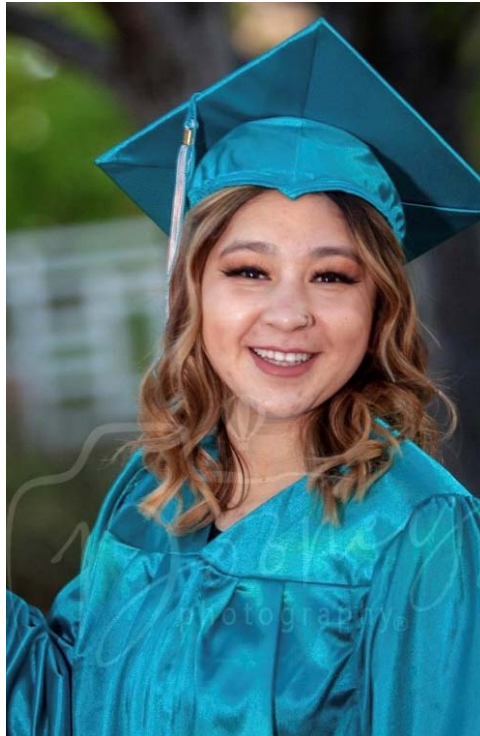
Sticky notes are key.

As Samantha Romero worked toward not one but two graduations this past month, she knew she had to be organized, using multiple methods to keep track of her various projects, assignments and tasks.

“I write everything down,” she said. “If it’s not on a piece of paper, it’s on my notebooks or my phones. I keep alarms (to remind me of specific things I have to do). I ask my parents to help remind me. I keep sticky notes for everything.”

Romero earned her associate degree in liberal arts (and a certificate in general studies) from Luna Community College this spring and participated in graduation on May 8. The following week, she traded in her teal cap and gown for green, gold and white as she walked the line for graduation at West Las Vegas High School. The dual achievement was made possible by participation in dual credit and concurrent enrollment – not to mention a lot of diligence and every time management and organizational trick Romero could muster. She also managed to balance the schoolwork at WLW, classes at Luna and New Mexico Highlands with a couple of part-time jobs.

Now Romero’s in Albuquerque, preparing for the next step in her higher educational journey. This fall she’ll begin studies in clinical and forensic psychology at the University of New Mexico. Having completed



Samantha Romero earned an associate degree in liberal arts and general studies from Luna.
Courtesy photo

much of her core curriculum requirements while at Luna, Romero can delve into her bachelor’s program and her field of choice sooner than most of her peers. She wants to attain a master’s and then a doctorate in psychology.

“I feel like I’ve always wanted to help people,” Romero said of her choice to pursue studies in the behavioral sciences.

“Over the years, I see people dealing with mental disorders and mental issues. It’s so much deeper. Even learning about chemical imbalances. Learning about how the

“I feel like I’ve always wanted to help people.”

Samantha Romero
Class of '21 graduate

brain affects someone so much, and there are so many things that aren’t even studied. I fell in love with all of it and how all of it works.”

Going to college has been in Romero’s plans since she was a youngster. Between her parents and others influencing her to value higher education and her own interest in developing as a person, Romero said she stuck to her main goals no matter what curves the road presented.

COVID-19 and its aftermath presented some of those curves. In March 2020, Romero had been on the verge of joining her Lady Dons cheer squad for state competition when word came down that due to the pandemic there would be no state competition in the sport. The shutdown also applied to other school activities and sports like softball; Romero had been a catcher for West’s varsity. (She’s also competed in cross country for the Lady Dons.)

There may have been disappointment. But instead of allowing the pandemic to stop her, Romero treated it as a minor detour.

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Romero

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It really was motivation,” she said. “Time management has been important. When you go to class as usual, that’s not as hard. When you’re at home all the time, you forget. I had a lot of support -- everyone from friends to cousins and other family. They’re always texting, ‘Hey did you go to class?’, ‘Did you get this done?’ So there was a lot of support.”

It helped Romero to have the supportive environment she encountered at Luna in particular.

“At Luna it was a really cool experience,” she recalled. “Every teacher was always (following up with you); they care about you. It was a welcoming environment. It is a healthy environment and very beneficial to anyone who really wants to start off your college career.”

“If you miss a class you get an e-mail right away. They would take the time in class to discuss everybody’s problems. I could send an e-mail or make a phone call. They would always take the time to discuss things. They were always really good with that. ... With the tutoring they were always very helpful. I wouldn’t have to wait long to get a response. They would focus on you. The tutors, they are students too, so they’re more understanding. They try to make as much time as they can just to help you.”

Romero mentioned several faculty and staff who were



“(Luna) is a healthy environment and very beneficial to anyone who really wants to start off your college career.”

Samantha Romero
Class of '21 graduate

particularly helpful: Ray Varela, ACE coordinator; instructors Chelsea Lucero, Sherry Goodyear, Billie Mathews, Kim Baca, Justine Chavez, Rick Baca; dual credit coordinator (and now registrar) Geri Saavedra, and student services specialist Amber Scarver. Dan Gonzales, a math instructor, she said, “was helpful even going back to high school. I’ll forever be grateful for his help.”

She also credits her family for instilling strong values, including an appreciation for education, and for continuing to support her along the way. They include mom Shannon Saiz, stepdad Adam Saiz; dad Marcus Romero, stepmom Olivia Medina; uncle Matthew Romero and aunt Marisa Saiz; and her grandparents. “Without them, I don’t think any of this would be possible,” she said.

Romero said the strong start she’s gotten has her feeling ready for the road in front of her.

“To me college has always been a No. 1 thing for me. In this life everything can be taken away from you. You get a degree; that’s on you forever. That sticks with you no matter what happens. That’s yours. I’m able to walk into college as a junior and step into my field. My parents were always telling me about college. At the end of the day, it’s just you. I did it for me. I created a whole different mindset. This is what I want -- and this is how I’m going to do it.”

“For students in high school right now, I would say get involved and do everything. Make school one of your priorities. (Activities and dual credit courses are also recommended.) These all put you in play. Just try. Put everything you can into it -- your motivation, your hard work, your strengths. Find your motivation, and find that support system. It all pays off sooner or later.”

Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center @ Luna Community College



Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday

\$51 a semester for community members (enroll in PE 112)

\$30 a semester for those age 55 and older

FREE to Luna employees (enroll; sign waiver at business office)

Enrollment is subject to the dates and policies listed in the academic calendar.



Take PE 112, a self-paced class that allows you to work out at your own convenience with weight machines, free weights, cardio equipment and more. Students and members will log in a minimum of 20 dates encompassing 32 or more hours during the semester. Training available upon request.

Facility features treadmills, stationary bikes, stair steppers, ellipticals, free weights, cable weight machines, abdominal and core strength equipment, resistance bands, battle ropes, land mine, hex bars, metal log bar, sled, hurdles; basketball court, boxing room with speed and heavy bags!

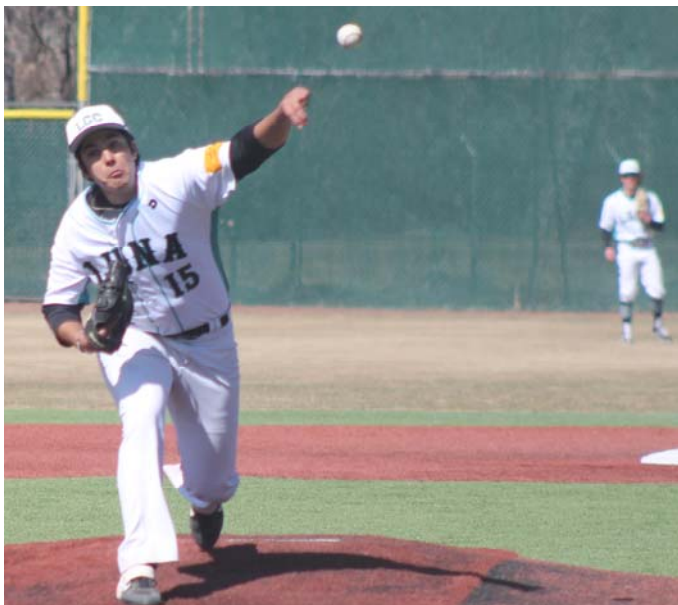
For other classes offered at the center, please see updated schedule of classes at luna.edu.

Call 505-454-2517 for more information.

Work out with us!

Two Riders all-region in baseball

Several Luna student-athletes among top 10 in regional stats



Luna sophomore Dusty Sipe (far left and far right) earned first-team all-Region 9 honors after leading the Rough Riders in several offensive categories. Luna baseball had an improved win total despite having fewer games this past spring. Luna freshman pitcher Ruger Bravo (middle) was named to the second-team all-Region 9 squad, having posted the second-best earned run average in the region and a 5-1 record on the mound.

Infielder Dustin “Dusty” Sipe and pitcher Ruger Bravo of Luna Community College were both honored with All-Region 9 postseason honors this spring.

Sipe, who split time at first and second base, is a sophomore from Aztec, N.M. He was named first-team all-region. Sipe hit .385, including a team-high 14 home runs, nine doubles and 42 runs batted in over 38 games played this season. Sipe ranks among the top 10 in Region 9 for batting average, home runs, walks, on-base percentage, slugging percentage, hits by pitch and sacrifice hits. And he’s no slouch on defense, having tied for first in double play involvement with 23.

Bravo is a freshman from Albuquerque’s Manzano High. He was named second-team all-region. Bravo is credited with a 5-1 record with 54 strikeouts and an earned run average of 4.53 over 51.2 innings pitched this year. The ERA is second best among all pitchers in Region 9, and the win total also ranks in the top 10.

A number of other Luna student-athletes also ranked among the top 10 statistically this past season despite not having a full schedule of games.

LUNA’S REGION 9 LEADERS (TOP 10)

BASEBALL

Pitching, earned run average: 2. Ruger Bravo, 4.53
Pitching, saves: 2. K.T. Gearlds, six
Pitching, starts: T-4. Logan Wilson, 11
Pitching, wins: T-8. Ruger Bravo, five
Pitching, complete games: T-8. Ruger Bravo, one; T-8. Tony Limon, one

Hitting, batting average: 10. Dusty Sipe, .385
Hitting, home runs: 8. Dusty Sipe, 14
Hitting, walks: T-8. Dusty Sipe, 29
Hitting, on-base percentage: 6. Dusty Sipe, .520

MORE: See Page 8

Luna opens campuses

Luna Community College in Las Vegas and its campuses in Mora, Santa Rosa and Springer are open to the community.

Luna will follow the latest official guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New Mexico Higher Education Department.

Summer classes, which begin on Monday, June 7, will be taught both in person and online. Students should contact their respective professor or department director directly for details on how each individual class will be taught. The last day to register for summer classes is Friday, June 11.

All Luna employees are also back on campus. In the fall, students will have more options for face-to-face classes, and online learning remains available.

Campus buildings will be open with Covid-safe practices followed.

Luna is making well-informed choices for the well-being of our campus community and the public and will continue to closely monitor activities and developments related to the spread and management of coronavirus (COVID-19) in coordination with the CDC and the New Mexico Department of Public Health.'

For more information, please call Luna's Human Resources office at 505-454-2503.



Sinai Cisneros, an outfielder from Andress High in El Paso, is pictured here with her dad Robert Cisneros (left) and Luna softball coach Steve Wallace. Cisneros intends to major in criminal justice while attending Luna.

Region 9

Continued from Page 7

Hitting, slugging percentage: 3.

Dusty Sipe, .838

Hitting, hit by pitch: T-9. Brandon Zwiener, 10

Hitting, sacrifice hits: T-3. Matthew Gelwick, three

Fielding, putouts: 10. Milo

Behrens, 194

Fielding, assists: 1. Tony Limon, 94;

9. Francisco Ochoa, 58

Fielding, double plays: T-1.

Dusty Sipe, 23; 3. Tony Limon, 18

SOFTBALL

Pitching, complete games: T-8.

Mary J. Martinez, five

Hitting, triples: T-5. Marquisa Montoya, three

Hitting, hit by pitch: T-8. Makayla Martinez, four

Fielding, fielding percentage: T-

1. Victoria Gonzales, 1.000; T-1.

Mary J. Martinez, 1.000; T-1.

Angelica Montanez, 1.000; T-1.

Marquisa Montoya, 1.000; T-1.

Anahi Ruiz, 1.000



TO ALL AREA GRADUATES.



You've made us proud. Now keep going.

It's been a challenging time for everyone. But you didn't let anything stop you from achieving your goals. Enjoy this moment and take pride in your accomplishments. We'd be glad to help you take the next steps toward a stronger future. Visit us at LUNA.edu and learn more about what the Luna experience can do for you, whether it's a college degree or certificate, training for a good job, or an affordable start to your higher education.





TO OUR GRADUATES.

You've made us proud. Now keep going.

It's been a turbulent couple of years for everyone. But you didn't let anything stop you from achieving your goals.

Luna Community College recognizes your persistence and your passion, and we are pleased to see you mark your success on graduation day. Enjoy this moment and take pride in your accomplishments. But let it be just the start of a fulfilling journey in your higher education and career.





DON'T LOSE
FOCUS

COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA TODAY!

Scan here with a
smart phone camera



**2021-2022 FAFSA WILL COVER FALL 2021,
SPRING 2022 AND SUMMER 2022**

QUICK TIP

USE THE IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL
TO IMPORT YOUR **2019** TAXES

LCC FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
366 LUNA DR. LAS VEGAS, NM 87701
PHONE: 505-454-2560
EMAIL: FINAID@LUNA.EDU

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.



Photo of the edition, submitted by Shannon Ortiz, captures this beautiful river scenery in Taos County.

LVSM Chamber of Commerce in collaboration
with Alessi Hartigan Casting is having an

OPEN CASTING CALL

WHAT: AMAZON Prime TV Series "Outer Range"

WHEN: Monday June 7, 2021 (6/7/21)

WHERE: Mora County Courthouse/Commission Meeting Room

WHAT TIME: 11:00pm to 1:00pm

Dress and wear your hair the way that you do daily.

We will collect height, weight, sizes etc. when you come in.



LVSM Chamber of Commerce in collaboration
with Alessi Hartigan Casting is having an

OPEN CASTING CALL

WHAT: AMAZON Prime TV Series "Outer Range"

WHEN: Friday June 11, 2021 (6/11/21)

WHERE: El Valle Community Center

WHAT TIME: 12:00pm to 2:00pm

Dress and wear your hair the way that you do daily.

We will collect height, weight, sizes etc. when you come in.

