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Dr. Pete Campos to retire from Luna Community College

After completing nearly seven years as president at Luna Community College, Dr. Pete Campos has announced his retirement. Dr. Campos said he plans to retire after his current contract expires on June 30.

“My passion has always been for student success and I wish them the best life has to offer,” said Dr. Campos. “We have made significant progress at Luna Community College by improving the quality of education offered to students of all ages,” said Dr. Campos. “I will continue to lead this effort until my retirement. The academic rigor has increased and as a result Luna Community College has received national accreditation in nursing, dental assisting, the school of business and in several vocational areas.”

In late December, Luna Community College received a report from members of the Higher Learning Commission Evaluation Team that they are recommending the college for reaffirmation of accreditation. The next recommended reaffirmation evaluation visit is for 2024-2025.

Under Dr. Campos, Luna Community College aligned its curriculum; increased the number of highly qualified vocational, masters and Ph.D. degreed instructors and administrators; delivered solid concurrent enrollment courses to high school

students that have led them to earn and receive their high school diplomas and associate degrees simultaneously.

“Courses our students take are more transferable than ever,” said Dr. Campos. “This has provided students with more post-secondary educational opportunities and them to go on and earn a bachelor’s or other professional degrees.”

During Dr. Campos’ tenure, Luna Community College has updated and aligned its Board of Trustee and administrative operating policies to comply with the New Mexico Community College Act; maintained timely and clean audits; enacted over 200 memorandums of understanding (MOU’s) with educational, public and private entities; updated its master and strategic plans; improved its human resources processes; earned admission into the Western Junior College Athletic Conference – Region 5 for baseball and softball; updated its faculty and student handbooks and college catalogue.

In addition, Luna Community College weathered the economic downturn that began in 2008. Luna Community College has also had to work through a consistent decline in its service area population.

“We have provided uninterrupted and effective education to students and kept employees working without furloughs or layoffs,” said Dr. Campos.

In late February, the college held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new auto collision building with a Title V grant funding 49 percent of it and the other paid through a general obligation bond. Renovations are in store for several other vocational departments.

Some of the projects in the works are funding for an auditorium in the Media Education Center and a long-term Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) grant.

Dr. Campos officially began his tenure as president of Luna Community College on July 1, 2008.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Campos served as superintendent at Las Vegas City Schools for four years. From

1993 to 2004, Dr. Campos was associate superintendent for support services at the Las Vegas City Schools. From 1978 to 1982, Dr. Campos was a counselor at Santa Rosa High. Dr. Campos has been a New Mexico state senator since 1991.

He has been a member of the Senate Finance Committee since 1997. Dr. Campos earned his doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of New Mexico in 2003. He also has a master's degree in counseling from Highlands University and a bachelor's degree in economics and philosophy from UNM. Dr. Campos is a 1971 graduate of Santa Rosa High.

"I'm grateful to the people of the region for their unending support," said Dr. Campos. "I spent 25 years in business with my father and mother, over 27 years in education, four years as a mayor and 25 years as state senator. With the help of God, I intend to spend more time with Lori (his wife) and Peter (his son), continue my ministry as deacon at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, continue to address people's needs as state senator, continue my responsibilities as a Board of Trustee of Alta Vista Regional Hospital and continue my duties as a board of director of Community First Bank. I love people and will continue to do my best to serve their needs," said Dr. Campos.

Although Dr. Campos has been regarded in many distinguished fashions during his life, being called dad is something that puts a smile on his face. As life is made up of moments, there is one he will never forget. It was about 18 years ago when he was getting professional picture done.

"I remember the time when Peter as a young child, cuddled up close to me when I was having a formal picture taken," says Dr. Campos. "The photographer was able to capture the love between father and son. While I love people and serving their needs, the title dad means a lot to me. I cut the umbilical cord when Peter was born and will always thank God for bringing him into Lori's and my life."

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