NMJC to Host U.S. Constitution Day Sept. 16

Educational institutions that receive federal aid must, by law, showcase the U.S. Constitution some time during September each year. For the ninth year in a row, New Mexico Junior College will do just that, as it hosts U.S. Constitution Day on Monday, Sept. 16, 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Ben Alexander Student Union.

Patty Emmerich, professor of history and government, is organizing the event. She will also enact the role of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln, reciting a number of White House memories as they related to the U.S. Constitution for her husband, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president, and their family and the country.

Narrator will be Richard Miller, while Dennis Atherton, vice president for Instruction, will lead the Pledge of Allegiance, welcome attendees and introduce the participants. Yau-Sona Wong, professor of music, and NMJC students will perform patriotic-themed music.

Further, NMJC American Government students will receive prizes for the best U.S. Constitution letters from each class. They will address their letters to the “First Lady” regarding the changes within the nation and whether those changes require the U.S. Constitution to change as well.

“The U.S. Constitution is the framework for our country’s government,” Emmerich said. “Having the chance to showcase our NMJC students’ work that reinforces this aspect of history is so important.”

Attendance sheets for the event and rosters for college campus Democrats and Republicans will be available in the foyer of the Student Union. A reception will follow the event.

For more information, contact Dr. Patty Emmerich at 575-492-2814, or pemmerich@nmjc.edu.
A grant from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for New Mexico Junior College students pursuing associate’s degrees in nuclear and radiation technology will be renewed, and available for the fall semester, it was announced August 1.

Announcement that an NRC grant, which has been in place at NMJC since 2009, was being awarded again was received by Philip Roybal, newly appointed interim director of Student Services and the director of the college’s energy programs. The office of U.S. Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) made the announcement that $150,000, increased from the $120,000 awarded in 2009, would be available for scholarships.

“We have had many students successfully get through our energy program with the NRC grant,” Roybal said, “so we applied again. Having had all these students succeed with this grant made it easier for us to renew it.”

Students who make use of the grant funding and earn a degree in NMJC’s nuclear energy program can expect to go to work locally as a nuclear or radiation technician, and might find employment locally at the URENCO facility, or the WIPP site in Carlsbad or Waste Control Specialists across the Texas border. Students with degrees in this field also commonly go on to pursue four-year degrees at colleges with which NMJC has articulation agreements, including Eastern New Mexico University, Thomas Edison State College in New Jersey (an online program), and others with energy programs. Job choices may vary widely, from plant technician for a facility such as URENCO, to careers in nuclear medicine, to waste disposal.

Although students can get the energy program online at NMJC, there are plans to add a simulation system for hands-on instruction starting in the fall, Roybal said. A partnership between Lockheed Martin, an international aerospace, defense and security company, and NMJC will make this possible.

Further, the college is also working toward making national certification by the Nuclear Uniform Curriculum Program possible for nuclear energy students. Membership in this and other major organizations in the nuclear field, including the Nuclear Education Institute, helps to keep the college current with industry developments, specifically regarding what careers NMJC needs to be training students for.

For more information, contact Roybal at 575.492.2761 or proybal@nmjc.edu.
Revived NMJC Construction Trades Program Offers Green Emphasis

HOBBS — As new construction booms in the Hobbs area in answer to the demand for housing, locals may have noticed that a lot of the construction workers are from somewhere else. Organizers and planners of New Mexico Junior College's Construction Trades program are hoping to change that soon, as a newly revamped program returns this fall to the college after a few years' hiatus.

"We have carpenters, masons and electricians from Houston and Dallas and I even saw some from Wisconsin," said Jerry Morris, the lead instructor of the program. "It's because we don't have qualified people, and we haven't had a way to get training for the last few years."

NMJC will be offering evening instruction in Carpentry, Plumbing, Masonry and Electrical for college-level students, as well as dual credit in these programs for high school juniors and seniors. The emphasis for the new two-year program, said Dennis Atherton, vice president for instruction, will be Green Building techniques. Another change is that the program has become more Work Force oriented, meaning that the emphasis is on turning students into workers who can command higher pay than if they entered these industries from the ground floor. If the student chooses, he or she can quickly become certified and go on to join the workforce in less time than a traditional two-year degree will take.

Atherton said that the program was resurrected after he was approached by Building Trades students at Hobbs High School who saw that NMJC had the program on its records, and that the program featured a viable degree, but that it hadn't been offered in a few years.

"They asked us to bring it back on line, saying they wanted an Associate of Arts degree," Atherton said. He worked with Morris, who is the Mechanical and Industrial Careers instructor at Hobbs High School, to do just that. The program also enlists instructors who are certified in masonry, carpentry, electrical and plumbing.

The certificate and degree plans are for Construction Trades, with emphases in the specializations.

Morris said the program will offer a viable alternative for students who have just gotten their GEDs or are just out of high school and don't want to start out at minimum wage in the oil field or mines.

"If they want to do better, they can get certification for their industrial and mechanical skills," he said. "They don't have to start at the bottom."

The evening courses for the college students are designed for a self-pacing, non-traditional student, in that there is not a heavy concentration on lectures, but rather hands-on learning. Students who want to pursue certification can aim for two: the one that NMJC offers, as well as the National Center for Construction Education and Research certification that shows they have achieved a certain level of proficiency and are ready for employment at that level anywhere in the country.

Those who want to pursue the two-year degree are encouraged to enroll in classes in business and accounting, in the expectation that one day, they will want to run their own businesses, Morris said. Each program, be it for the certificate or degree, offers training in soft skills, such as work ethics and communication.

As for the green component in the newly revised program, Morris said that students will be introduced to LEED, or Leadership in Industry and Environmental, design principles. The instruction will teach students about sustainability, energy efficiency, minimizing pollution and other principles embraced by the Green Building industry. Further, students who complete the Green Building course of instruction may move into alternative energy fields such as wind, solar and nuclear that the college already offers.

Introduction to Construction Trades will be offered on Mondays, 6 to 10 p.m. The following classes will be offered on Tuesdays, 6 to 10 p.m.: Carpentry, Level One; Plumbing, Level One; Masonry, Level One; and Electrical, Level One. Instruction at Hobbs High School begins August 14, while the fall semester at NMJC begins August 19.

"One of the reasons we're bringing this program back is this entire Southeastern New Mexico area is really exploding as far as businesses are concerned," said Atherton. "We're expecting the expansion of the uranium enrichment facility in 2014. There's a big new potash mine opening up. And along with this growth, we have a lack of housing throughout Southeastern New Mexico. The building of additional living accommodations has already skyrocketed and will continue to grow. And NMJC intends to be a viable part of this growth."

For more information about the program, contact Atherton at 575.492.2763, or datherton@nmjc.edu.
HORSING AROUND EXHIBIT
July 25-September 15
Contact: (575) 492-2678 or www.westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

LABOR DAY (campus closed)
September 2

HEAVY METAL SCULPTURE EXHIBIT
September 5 - October 18
Contact: (575) 492-2678 or www.westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

U.S. CONSTITUTION DAY
September 16 • 11:45 am
Ben Alexander Student Union Building
Contact: Dr. Patty Emmerich (575) 492-2814 or pemmerich@nmjc.edu

FISH: THE UNDERWATER WORLD OF TOM DEAN EXHIBIT
September 26 - November 17
Contact: (575) 492-2678 or www.westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

COMMUNITY BAND CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT
October 13 • 3:00 pm
Watson Hall 101
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong (575) 492-2844 or yswong@nmjc.edu

THANKSGIVING (campus closed)
November 27-29

NMJC VOCAL MUSIC STUDENTS’ RECITAL
December 2 • 7:00 pm
Watson Hall 101
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong (575) 492-2844 or yswong@nmjc.edu

NMJC INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STUDENTS’ RECITAL
December 4 • 7:00 pm
Watson Hall 101
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong (575) 492-2844 or yswong@nmjc.edu

WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW: Featuring NMJC Students
December 7-19
Contact: (575) 492-2678 or www.westernheritagemuseumcomplex.com

COMMUNITY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT
December 8 • 3:00 pm
Watson Hall 101
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong (575) 492-2844 or yswong@nmjc.edu

COMMUNITY CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
December 8 • 6:30 pm
Hillcrest Baptist Church; Lovingston, New Mexico
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong (575) 492-2844 or yswong@nmjc.edu

CHRISTMAS (campus closed)
December 23 - January 5

SPRING 2014 SEMESTER BEGINS
January 13

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY (campus closed)
January 20

COMMUNITY BAND JAZZ CONCERT
March 9 • 3:00 pm
Watson Hall 101
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong (575) 492-2844 or yswong@nmjc.edu

SPRING BREAK (campus closed)
April 7-11

GOOD FRIDAY (campus closed)
April 18

COMMUNITY BAND BROADWAY MUSIC CONCERT
April 27 • 3:00 pm
Watson Hall 101
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong (575) 492-2844 or yswong@nmjc.edu

NMJC MUSIC STUDENTS’ VOCAL RECITAL
April 28 • 7:00 pm
Watson Hall 101
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong (575) 492-2844 or yswong@nmjc.edu

NMJC MUSIC STUDENTS’ INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL
April 30 • 7:00 pm
Watson Hall 101
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong (575) 492-2844 or yswong@nmjc.edu

COMMUNITY CHORALE CONCERT
May 4 • 7:00 pm
Watson Hall 101
Contact: Dr. Yau-Sun Wong (575) 492-2844 or yswong@nmjc.edu

GRADUATION
May 9 • 7:00 pm
Lea County Event Center

MEMORIAL DAY (campus closed)
May 26

NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE
Promoting Success through Learning

e-newsNMJC • prmarketing@nmjc.edu • (575) 492-2726
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Lea County high school students leave NMJC from a day of student orientation for their classes in the dual credit program where they will earn high school and college credit.