



The first five Puerto Rican line technicians graduate from the LUMA College for Technical Training

The new lineworkers will work on the reconstruction of Puerto Rico's electrical system

(San Juan, Puerto Rico - December 15, 2020) – LUMA Energy graduated today, in a virtual ceremony, the first class of Puerto Rican line technicians who will work on the transformation of Puerto Rico's electrical system.

The five Puerto Ricans Christian Casanova, from Hatillo; Alex Lugo, from Ponce; Felipe Castro, from Peñuelas; Rafael Vargas, from Cidra; and Brian Bergollo from Guaynabo, completed a 15-week technical course at the Northwest Lineman College (NLC) campus in Edgewater, FL. NLC, America's leading vocational technical college for energy industry career training, is owned by Quanta Services, one of LUMA's parent companies.

The LUMA 5 received full scholarships and payment of all their expenses to complete the course, which is designed to teach the line technician how to safely build, maintain and operate the electrical grid. Using a three-phase educational model, NLC students receive training aimed at developing their knowledge, skills, and the behaviors they will need to exhibit in the field to stay safe.

The LUMA 5 received congratulatory messages from Wayne Stensby, LUMA President and CEO; Earl C. "Duke" Austin, Jr., President and CEO of Quanta Services, and Rear Admiral Peter J. Brown, representative of the White House for the reconstruction of Puerto Rico.

"At LUMA, each employee will receive the appropriate training and resources to do their job. This is just our first step in establishing a culture of *People First, Safety Always* which is so important as we prepare for our commencement of operations in mid-2021. The expertise of our parent companies has enabled LUMA to successfully equip these five individuals, and eventually the more that will follow in their footsteps, with the skills, knowledge and training necessary to contribute to Puerto Rico's energy transformation," said Stensby.

Austin said he is "excited to welcome the first five LUMA graduates to an industry that will provide them, their families, and the people of Puerto Rico with benefits for years to come. They worked hard to achieve this distinction, and we are sure that they will add great value to our industry and to Puerto Rico."

Rear Admiral Brown highlighted the need to repair the island's electrical infrastructure and the role of the LUMA 5 in this project. "Infrastructure improvements are important to bring the system to the level of performance, reliability and efficiency standards in the industry. It is just as important to support and develop the human infrastructure that will operate and maintain this new electrical grid. Today's graduation marks a first step and LUMA's commitment to continue and expedite the development of that workforce. Congratulations!"

LUMA College for Technical Training on the island

Stensby said that the land where the LUMA College for Technical Training in Puerto Rico will be built has already been identified and development is underway, with the expectation that it will come into operation during the first quarter of 2021. It is an investment that will be carried out by the parent companies of LUMA, ATCO and Quanta Services. The LUMA College will be a practical training center with the equipment and expertise to train new generations of line technicians in the field of energy in Puerto Rico.

"With our work at the LUMA College for Technical Training, we will continue to invest in the safety of our workforce, the future of economic development, and the people of Puerto Rico through state-of-the-art training and world-class education," said Stensby.

An Angel for the LUMA 5

Christian, Alex, Felipe, Rafael, and Brian, the LUMA 5, went to Florida hoping to make a difference, learn, and strive toward the goal of becoming power line technicians. During their successful stay at the NLC, they were also blessed to have an Angel to guide them through this process.

The group met Ángel Cotte, another Puerto Rican who graduated as part of the previous class from the NLC line technician course. With his help and support, the LUMA 5 overcame their fears and succeeded in completing the course. His mentorship and enthusiasm enabled the Puerto Rican students to face and overcome their challenges.

"This work fell on me from heaven, like a mission. I would get up every morning to work with the five LUMA students, knowing that we were going back to the island to work for our people. I'm very motivated to move forward and give back to my country," said Cotte.