

*volunteer*

*advocate*

*lead*

*attend*

*share*

Annual Report on  
**Philanthropy**  
*in all its*  
**Forms**

*inspire*

University of  
La Verne

*envision*

*mentor*

*connect*

*donate*

Fiscal Year  
22-23



# Thank You!

Your generosity, whether through financial contributions, volunteer work, or other means, is making a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and inspiring others to do the same.

# Message *from the* President

The University of La Verne welcomes Pardis Mahdavi, PhD, as the university's 19th president. Mahdavi brings more than 20 years of scholarship, experience, and leadership in higher education.



I am incredibly humbled to have recently been appointed the 19th president of the University of La Verne. This institution's mission, values, and inspiring students are embodiments of my lifelong passions of making connections and building bridges in an effort to co-create a more inclusive global community. And, as you will see in this report, there are innumerable examples of the powerful impact our alumni, donors, trustees, faculty, staff, and community partners have on our students and surrounding communities.

For more than a century, the University of La Verne has served as a resource and partner to the community and region. Many connections have been made; many bridges have been built; and many relationships have been forged to help us realize remarkable achievements. We cannot express enough our gratitude for the countless loyal donors, volunteers, and advocates who have supported our students, our mission, and our continued future success. It is because of these connections that our students are able to access a high-quality education and a transformative college experience, setting them on the path of success while continuing to embody our collective shared values.

As I lean in to the role of president, I look forward to building more bridges to the future with all of you. Thank you for your continued support of our students and the critical work of the University of La Verne.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pardis Mahdavi'.

Pardis Mahdavi, PhD  
President



**\$58 Million +**  
annual institutional financial aid  
awarded to students

**5,500+**  
total number of  
enrolled students

**89,000+**  
alumni  
worldwide

**\$193.9M**  
annual operating  
budget

**5**  
colleges

**14:1**  
student to faculty  
ration

ranked  
**6th**  
for social mobility by  
U.S. News & World Report

# Philanthropy *in* Action

It is because of the power of philanthropy, in all its forms, that students have access to more knowledge, skills, and resources than ever before.



**Charlesea Gaye '23**  
Kinesiology

"I would like to sincerely say thank you to you because without your donation I don't think I would be able to continue with my education. I am deeply grateful, appreciative, and honored to have received your donation... I am so appreciative and grateful to have someone like you in my corner wanting to help me achieve one of my dreams! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

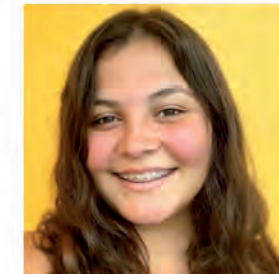
AHMANSON FOUNDATION  
SCHOLARSHIP

**96%**

Percentage of undergraduates receiving grants and scholarships.

**222**

Total number of privately-funded scholarships.



**Amelia Aguilera '24**  
Creative Writing

"I truly believe that I wouldn't be where I am today without the generosity of the scholarship donors. I hope that one day, I will be far enough in my career to give back to my community and make a difference as much as this scholarship has done for me."

JERRY & EDNA DEAL  
SCHOLARSHIP



**Kai Smith '23**  
Psychology

"...I am so lucky I was able to attend the University of La Verne. This school is amazing and very responsive to student needs! I even got my younger brother here as well because of how much I love this institution! I know what it is like to have my dreams and education deferred and I am very appreciative of the support and helping me get one step closer to graduating!"

MCMURRAY & MORGAN  
SCHOLARSHIP

**472**

Total number of privately-funded scholarship recipients.

**\$1,210,770**

Total funds awarded in privately-funded scholarships.



**Abigail Humphrey**  
Teaching -  
Single Subject '24

"I would like to express immense gratitude for this support of my academic career. I am incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to pursue my education and work toward the career of my dreams. As a first-generation student, navigating the academic world and funding my education has not always been easy, and I am incredibly grateful to have received a scholarship in support of my education."

MCELWEE FAMILY  
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

# Sara and Michael Abraham:

From Friendship to Philanthropy



Sara and Michael Abraham at the groundbreaking of The Sara and Michael Abraham Center for Veteran Student Success

Sara and Michael Abraham's longstanding connection with the University of La Verne is a testament to their dedication to making a positive impact on our institution and our students. Their contributions have significantly transformed numerous aspects of our university, including student experiences, campus life, resources, and services for veterans.

Michael Abraham's commitment to education was influenced by his upbringing, where his Lebanese immigrant parents emphasized the importance of determination, passion, devotion, and dedication, along with the power of education. This commitment to education has led him to serve on our board of trustees for the university for 24 years.

The Abrahams' involvement with the university began when their longtime friend, Richard Landis, a former university chancellor, trustee emeritus, and alumnus, invited Michael to join the board of trustees. Sara and Michael's connection with the university deepened over their years of service due to their shared desire to make a significant and personal impact on student experiences and the growth of the institution. Over the years, the Abrahams have been deeply impressed by the university's diverse student population, the talent and enthusiasm of its students, and the small student-to-professor ratio. **"These students grabbed my heart,"** Sara told a student reporter. **"The more time that we spent on campus, the more I was impressed."**



Sara and Michael Abraham are members of the Veritas Society, which recognizes donors who provide support beyond their lifetime.

**“ Sara and I believe the value of what you can give is not important in life, but the value of giving to others is what makes life important. ”**

Michael A. Abraham



The Abrahams' investment in the campus experience is evident through the initiatives and spaces they have supported:

**Sara and Michael Abraham Veteran Student Success Center:** Support from the Abrahams allowed a complete renovation to the dedicated space for veterans. The center now offers improved workspaces, updated computers, and renovated indoor and outdoor areas to foster a sense of community among veteran students.

**Sara and Michael Abraham Campus Center:** This building, constructed in 2009 with the help of generous contributions from the Abrahams and others, serves as the heart of the campus. It's a hub for student activities, socialization, and relaxation. It also houses administrative offices, admissions, and student services. On any given day, clubs meet, friends play video games and pool, a film screening could be held, or individuals might relax on sofas to rest or



The Sara & Michael Abraham Campus Center

catch up on reading. It also houses administrative offices, admissions, and student services.

**Cástulo de la Rocha College of Health and Community Well-Being:** The Abrahams' philanthropy has played a crucial role in funding various aspects of this state-of-the-art college facility, set to be completed by 2025. This college is a key component of the University of La Verne's education and innovation corridor in downtown Ontario, contributing to regional education, support, and partnerships in various fields. With these recent commitments, the Abrahams combined pledges are the largest in university history.

The Abrahams' commitment to giving back and supporting the university's mission and students has made a lasting impact. "Sara and I believe the value of what you can give is not important in life, but the value of giving to others is what makes life important," said Michael Abraham. "From veteran students who have served their country to healthcare graduates who will serve their communities, our intention is for our gifts to provide pathways to their service and success. We are proud to be able to support the university's commitment to its mission and students."

Their story is a powerful example of how philanthropy and a deep commitment to education can transform an institution and the lives of its students.

# Philanthropy *is a* Group Effort

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Giving Society members whose unwavering support sustains our mission and enriches our community.

Our four giving societies – Green & Orange Society, 1891 Society, Veritas Society, and Leo Club – were created to recognize outstanding generosity. Our societies celebrate four types of giving.



## The 1891 Society

Donors who have given \$1,000 or more during the fiscal year

Amount Given by Members in FY 22-23

**\$17,600,147**

Total Members

**255**



## Green & Orange Society

Donors who made a gift for three or more consecutive years

Amount Given by Members in FY 22-23

**\$6,351,555**

Total Members

**670**



## Veritas Society

Donors who establish endowments or have given through estate plans and other life income vehicles

Amount Given in Planned Gifts in FY 22-23

**\$13,490,000**

Total Members  
(Living and Deceased)

**458**



## The Leo Club

Donors who have given \$100 or more to any athletic fund during the fiscal year

Amount Given by Members in FY 22-23

**\$175,205**

Total Members

**325**

# Every Gift Counts

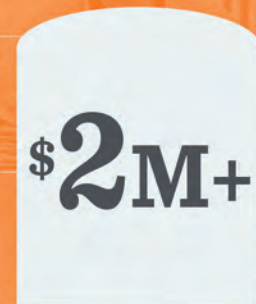
All gifts, regardless of their size or source, have a profound impact on the university. Your contributions collectively form a powerful force for good, enabling scholarships, projects, and programs to thrive and make a meaningful difference in our students lives.

# \$17,720,156

Total Raised in Fiscal Year 22-23



Total Given to Scholarships  
(\$3,511,050)



Total Given to Endowments  
(\$2,231,104)



Total Given to Capital  
(\$7,410,250)

**489**

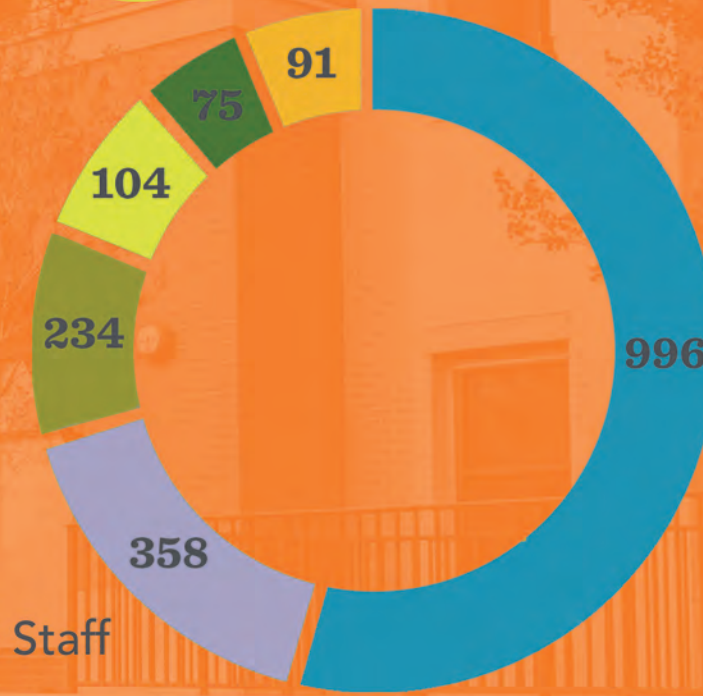
first-time donors

**\$478,880**

given by first-time donors

**\$979**

average gift from a first-time donor



- 75: Students
- 91: Faculty & Staff
- 996: Alumni
- 358: University Friends
- 234: Parents
- 104: Corporations, Foundations, & Government Organizations

# 1,858

Total Donors in Fiscal Year 22-23

**Alumni:**  
Paying it Forward

**996**  
total number of alumni donors

**\$456**  
average alumni gift

**\$453,843**  
total from alumni donors

**111**  
number of first-time alumni donors

# Sal and EV Medina: Community Commitment



Sal and EV Medina at their business, Packing House Wines Restaurant & Wine Shop in Claremont, CA.

Meeting alumni who embody the University's core values is always a treat. If you find yourself near the La Verne campus, you might want to include a fun visit to the Packing House Wines Restaurant & Wine Shop in Claremont to meet the owners - alumni power couple Silviano "Sal" Medina '98, M.Ed. '00 and Evelia "EV" Medina, MBA '05.

Sal and EV's unwavering dedication to giving back to their community and their cherished alma mater, the University of La Verne, radiates a warmth that nurtures the dreams of countless individuals.

*"We want to support others as they expand their opportunities for growth and advancement,"* says EV.

Their passionate commitment to uplifting others is rooted deep within their personal lived experiences. Sal's journey as a first-generation college student who immigrated from Jalisco, Mexico, is a testament to the definition of dedication and hard work. Despite facing adversity, Sal found support and built community at the University of La Verne. He became actively involved in his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta while working full-time and pursuing his education. He was determined to advance, and his first stepping stone was a bachelor's degree in political science and a Master of Education.

Sal's dedication to his community led him to serve his first term on the Claremont City Council in 2020. Currently serving as the City's Mayor Pro Tem, he is poised to take the helm as Mayor in December of 2023. Sal expressed the reason for their continued community engagement and support, *"We have an opportunity to give back and feel a responsibility to do so."*

Similarly, EV mirrors Sal's commitment to paying it forward. She believes in the University's vision, values, and commitment to equity and inclusion services. Currently serving as a Director of Facilities at Jones Lang LaSalle, a Fortune 500 global real estate services company, EV recognizes the transformative power of education and familial support, pivotal in her personal growth and professional success. EV is

passionate about opening doors for first-generation students and views the University as a leading university to fulfill this goal.

*"The university allows people to grow and learn in the way that works for them,"* EV shared. "The ability to open the door for first-generation students is very important to us."

Sal and EV are living proof that success is achieved through perseverance and community support. Their generosity extends to various designations at the University of La Verne, including contributions to the General Scholarship Fund, the Annual Scholarship Gala, and the "Love Always Wins" Scholarship, not to mention their unique way of blending philanthropy with their passion for good living - donating wine from their beloved business, Packing House Wines Restaurant & Wine Shop, to support various university fundraising events.

*"I attribute much of my success to the connections and growth achieved while at the University of La Verne,"* Sal said.

Sal and EV Medina exemplify a deep commitment to giving back to their community and their alma mater, with a focus on helping others achieve their full potential and providing opportunities for new connections or networks. Their personal philosophy of supporting others is reflected in their dedication to public service, philanthropy, and community engagement.



Sal and EV Medina are members the 1891 Society which recognizes individuals who give \$1,000 or more to the University of La Verne each year.

# There's No Place Like Home:

Record-Breaking Donations Announced at the 2023 Scholarship Gala



Former President Devorah Lieberman honors donors and students on stage at the 2023 Scholarship Gala

The University of La Verne raised nearly \$2 million in scholarships and announced the largest gift in university history — during its 25th Anniversary Scholarship Gala held on the historic La Verne campus May 6, 2023.

*“This is truly a mic drop moment,”* Former President Devorah Lieberman told hundreds of attendees, including civic and community leaders. *“These funds, each of you and the entire community make a significant impact on the university and our students.”*

During the Wizard of Oz themed celebration, Lieberman shared the personal stories of four students and how they benefited from scholarships as well as the support of staff and faculty across campus.

*“More than 90 percent of all our students receive scholarship support from donors and supporters like you who recognize the intellect, empathy, bravery, and belonging these students have to offer the world,”* said Lieberman.



Alumni Advisory Board Vice President Jessica Miramontes '17, EdD '22 gets into the Wizard of Oz theme.

In a surprise announcement, community partner Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) revealed it would put \$1.5 million toward scholarships and a new IEHP Health Career Academy under the Randall Lewis Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Social Impact.

Lieberman thanked guests for their generosity and partnership on behalf of students and higher education in her final gala address before she retired June 30.

*“I am humbled to say that I have had the privilege of serving the University of La Verne as president for 12 years and I am grateful for all that we have been able to accomplish together- This includes establishing new colleges, expanding our footprint into Ontario, increasing our endowment and national visibility, donor named deans and faculty members, exceeding our \$125 million comprehensive campaign, and a laser focus on maintaining a culture where everyone feels like they belong.”*

The Scholarship Gala closed with a drawing for a 2023 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid XLE, which was generously donated by the OREMOR Automotive Group, and won by Alumnus Freddy Ochoa, '03 and MBA '09.

Donors Peggy Redman '60, MEd '90, EdD '91 and Donna Redman '88, MS '98, EdD '07, along with guest Jim Moorman pose with costumed students from the Theatre Arts Program.





Philanthropy encompasses a wide range of actions that go beyond just monetary donations. Here are a few members of the University of La Verne community who are making a powerful impact in creative and inspiring ways...

**Brittany Allison '10 and Dr. Thomas Allison '07, JD '10, MPA '14, DPA '23:**

As pillars of our community, both on and off campus, they serve and build our beloved community through their commitment and passion to address the most challenging issues in society. Their combined expertise in developing opportunities for collaboration and dialogue, and working to advance social justice initiatives is invaluable to our students.



**Dr. Kim J. Burchiel:** As a long-time member of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Burchiel also serves as the Chairman of the President's Health Advisory Council (PHAC) whose purpose is to make the University of La Verne an essential resource for inter-professional healthcare education to serve the needs of the Inland Empire and East San Gabriel Valley region. Under Dr. Burchiel's leadership, the PHAC has been a leading power in the conceptualization and creation of the Cástulo de la Rocha College of Health and Community Well-Being.

**Al Clark, PhD,** is a Professor Emeritus of humanities at the University of La Verne and the driving force behind the university's Oral History Collection. Clark, with support from students in his honors classes, has recorded the memories of more than 950 students, faculty, and staff in order to preserve the university's history from the perspectives of those who lived it.



# Philanthropy

## in all its Forms

Connect

Advocate

Inspire

Mentor

Envision

Lead

Preserve



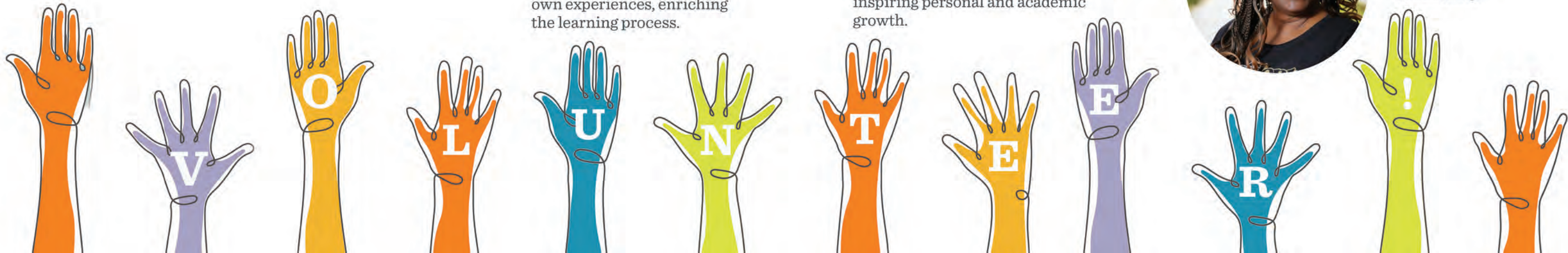
**Ruben Maciel:** As an active member of both our Golf Tournament and Scholarship Gala Committees, Ruben has been a strong advocate for connecting the university with a diverse array of friends and opportunities within the broader Hispanic business community.

**Ron Johnson '01, Norm Scheel '88, Paul Moseley '88, Louis McMurray '68, and Richard Searing '06** are just some of the successful alumni who return to Dr. Ahmed Ispahani's Economics classes as visiting lecturers. By sharing their knowledge they provide real-world examples or offer insights from their own experiences, enriching the learning process.

**Mario Rodriguez '07:** As the current president of the Latino Alumni Mentors and Professionals (LAMP) group, Mario is integral in supporting Latino alumni to engage in mentoring relationships with current students, fostering a supportive network that guides and empowers the next generation. Through LAMP's initiatives, alumni and current students connect, inspiring personal and academic growth.



**Stephanie Hancock '16:** As the current Alumni Advisory Board President, Stephanie possesses an extraordinary ability to envision the future of our alumni community. She and the Executive Board have guided our board in setting ambitious goals and pursuing innovative initiatives to strengthen our connections with alumni, students, and the wider community. Her dedication to the betterment of our institution helps create a bright future for our alumni community.



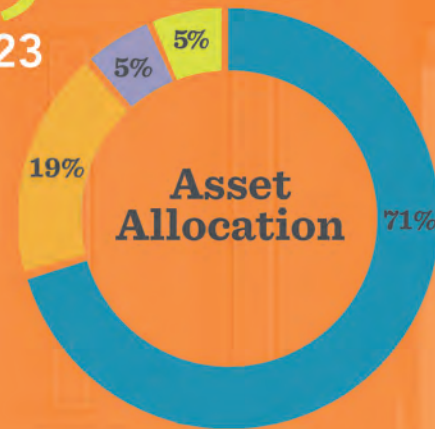
# Focus on the Future

Your support is the lifeblood of our institution, providing the financial resources needed to assist students, sustain operations, enhance facilities, and support academic programs well into the future. You ensure the university's viability by strengthening our fiscal future and capacity to adapt and excel in an ever-changing educational landscape.

## \$144,332,153

Total Endowment as of June 30, 2023

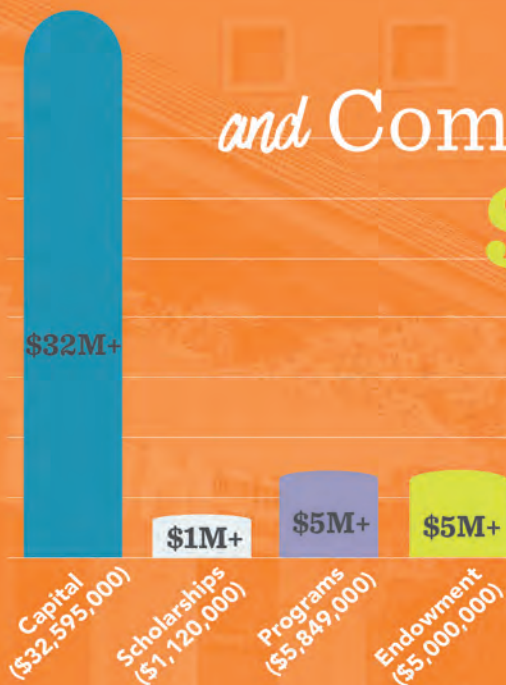
Endowed funds are managed as long-term investments. Similar to a mutual fund. To preserve the endowment's value over time, the pool is invested to provide annual income and long-term growth of principal (although depreciation is always possible). The University's endowment is essential as it provides a long-term, sustainable source of financial support for the institution, ensuring our stability and ability to pursue our mission for generations to come.



## College of Health and Community Well-Being

## \$44,564,000

Raised as of June 30, 2023



The launch of the College of Health and Community Well-Being marks a milestone in our commitment to excellence in healthcare education. With a vision to nurture the next generation of healthcare professionals, the college sets the stage for cutting-edge advancements in health equity, community well-being, and public service. Note: In July of 2023 a significant additional gift was received from AltaMed Health Services Corp. naming the new college the Cástulo de la Rocha College of Health and Community Well-Being.



## Thank You from the Vice President of University Advancement

I want to express my deepest gratitude for your commitment to philanthropy in all its forms. Your generous contributions, whether financial, time, expertise, or advocacy, embody the true spirit of giving, and they have a profound impact on our community and beyond.

In a world where every act of kindness matters, your philanthropic efforts shine brightly, illuminating the path toward positive change and social mobility. Through your contributions, you are making a tangible difference in the lives of our students, uplifting them in ways we can only imagine.

With Gratitude,

Sherri G. Mylott, Ed.D  
Vice President, University Advancement



# *Thank You!*



*To learn more about giving options that are right for you, visit us on the web at [laverne.edu/advancement](http://laverne.edu/advancement)*



*To make a gift in person, please stop by our campus office at **2035 Bonita Avenue, La Verne, CA 91750***



*To make a gift online, visit [giveto.laverne.edu](http://giveto.laverne.edu)*