April 15, 2014

Dear University Colleagues,

Spring is a time of renewal, regeneration, growth and blossoming. It is only appropriate that the University of La Verne is in the midst of the same. Our campus is buzzing with activity and energy as we move toward the end of the term and spring commencement.

Last week, I presented the Spring 2014 State of the University Address. Thank you to all who attended in person or viewed online from your offices, your regional campuses or your homes. This semester’s State of the University Address highlighted six areas: (1) five-year institutional enrollment trends and future trends; (2) budget overview for 2014-2015; (3) higher education trends regionally, nationally and internationally; (4) the reasons for our need to stay focused on why students choose to attend La Verne and choose to continue at La Verne; (5) the 2020 Strategic Vision, the Campus Master Plan and the Comprehensive Campaign; and, (6) La Verne Points of Pride for 2013-2014.

Our ‘Points of Pride’ are wide and deep. In addition to those highlighted in last week’s address (re-accreditations in psychology and public administration, a record-high first time bar pass rate, stellar freshmen-to-sophomore retention, acclaimed articles in nationally recognized higher education publications, a healthy budget projection, and the grand opening of Campus West), I want to also recognize our multi-cultural team, campus safety and our leaders in spirituality.

The University of La Verne is the only campus that has twice hosted the AHSIE Conference (Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators). The first time we hosted there were only 150 attendees; the second time this past March we hosted approximately 375 people. This was a phenomenal opportunity for us to showcase the University to attendees representing the continental U.S. and Puerto Rico. Three of our own faculty and staff presented as well!
Lisa Grater, from the Campus Safety department, was one of three finalists for The National Fleet Management Association (NAFA) “Excellence in Fleet Leadership” award. This is a highly prestigious level of recognition in managing fleet and transportation services. It is important to note that she was selected from 120 nominations submitted from across the country and the only nomination from higher education. A point of pride indeed!

La Verne is a significant partner with Interfaith Youth Core, the premier national organization working with institutions of higher education to make interfaith cooperation a social norm in the United States. Last weekend, our student interfaith club “Common Ground” hosted the Student Multi-faith Leadership Conference, a regional conference for Southern California, bringing together students, faculty and staff interested in furthering multicultural and interdenominational leadership and spirituality through collaboration in community engagement.

It would take volumes to address every accomplishment of our students, faculty and staff. These are just a few examples of all that surrounds us on our campus, in our campus culture, and within our greater community. I could not be more proud of our institution. The University of La Verne is full of life – this season and year round – and we anticipate and meet the needs of higher education and those we serve. So much has been accomplished since the school year began last fall; there remains a great deal to look forward to as we approach Commencement and the close of another academic year.

For those who observe Passover or Easter, I wish you a celebratory holiday. Thank you to all for your commitment to the success of our university.

Sincerely,

Devorah Lieberman, Ph.D.
President