December 23, 2013

Dear University Colleagues,

As 2013 comes to a close, I write this final President’s Pause to thank each of you, across our eleven campuses and four colleges, for your hard work and dedication to the University of La Verne, to each other and our students.

Before we begin our new year, let’s take a moment to reflect on and celebrate only a few of our many accomplishments from 2013:

**University-wide:**

- Our incoming freshmen had the highest average SAT scores in La Verne’s history;
- We were ranked second by *US News and World Report* as an over-performing university; we were ranked 48 of 527 California schools on “Return on Investment,” and we were the only private school ranked in the Top 50 institutions in the country for “Best Bang for the Buck” by the Washington Monthly;
- We became the second college in California to sign on to the Green Billion Dollar challenge, developing a self-sustaining funding strategy for environmental and sustainability efforts;
- We broke ground on Campus West and are creating and renovating new labs, classrooms and offices;
- Our full-time faculty, adjunct faculty, and staff all received compensation increases of 4.0% or higher, even as we increased the number of faculty positions.

**College of Law:** Our law school students first-time bar pass rate was the highest in 20 years;

**College of Business and Public Management:** Richard and Beth Landis endowed a Professorship in CBPM for Business, Ethics and Leadership; our MBA program had a record number of enrollments;

**College of Education and Organizational Leadership:** Ed.D. recruited its largest class in more than six years;

**College of Arts and Sciences:** Professor John Hultman established a Distinguished Professorship in the College of Arts and Sciences; Professor Robert and Mary Neher established the Endowed Lectureship for Global Sustainability.

As I mentioned in October’s State of the University Address, our accomplishments far outweigh our ‘areas to work on.’ At a recent dinner, several La Verne colleagues captured the best aspects of our La Verne community when they said:

- “We are a welcoming and affirming community,”
- “We have collaborative faculty and staff,”
- “Our students are appreciative and value strong relationships with faculty and staff,”
- “Our faculty are committed to elevating and delivering academic quality,”
- “Our regional and national reputation is on the rise,” and
“Any disagreements are approached with civility and respect among all of us.”

In a nutshell: “our values are in the very fabric of this institution and we truly live them every day.”

The University of La Verne is a strong community and I look forward to what we will accomplish together in 2014. We have a compelling and strategic vision for our future that builds on our historic mission and values. Your contributions are pivotal to the future of La Verne and our students.

I wish you and your family a restful and restorative winter break, and look forward to a New Year filled with inspiration and achievement.

Sincerely,

Devorah Lieberman, Ph.D.
President