January 12, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to campus! If I did not personally wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year, please let me take the opportunity to do so in this President’s Pause. I trust you each had an enjoyable, restful, and reenergizing winter break, and feel renewed and ready to take on all that awaits us in 2015.

Since our campus was officially closed during the holiday break, I expected to see the last two weeks of December with almost no one on campus. How wrong I was! Throughout those weeks, I continually observed offices and individuals coming to campus committed to advancing the university and preparing for the spring term. I saw offices working together, faculty members and students collaborating on research, and students coming to campus simply to enjoy the environment.

Many offices and individuals accomplished much on campus during the campus closure. Among those who worked over the holiday break, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Human Resources completed the technology migration to the Banner system. The entire Human Resources team, 16 employees and three from the Office of Information Technology, worked throughout the break to launch Banner HRIS and ensure that the new payroll system would be up and running beginning in 2015. As a result, every employee at La Verne received a paycheck or notice of direct deposit on January 9. Phase one of the implementation went live on January 1 and there will be additional efficiencies implemented over the next year. On behalf of all our employees, thank you to those who made this happen. This is an enormous accomplishment and milestone for the University. For the first time in our history, the entire university is using the same operating system, allowing us to access and use the
same data, while also increasing efficiencies in processing employee and student information.

The Office of Information Technology was also available throughout our official closure; here to address any unforeseen email or personal technology issues. Additionally, the Capital Planning Team worked throughout the closure to complete four major projects and renovations in the Hoover Building, in Founders Hall, and in Woody Hall. I anticipate that faculty and staff who are returning to those renovated areas will be very pleased. Thank you to OIT and Capital Planning for their dedication and hard work.

Thank you to the employees in the Offices of Graduate and Undergraduate Admissions who came to campus during our holiday closure in order to receive and process prospective student applications. This allowed us to respond in a timely manner to every student who applied for entrance to the university during that time period. Because of these employees’ dedication, we have mailed our acceptance and our financial aid letters to prospective undergraduate students earlier than ever before.

And, of course, thank you to our Campus Safety employees who were on hand to continue monitoring our campus and keeping our students and staff safe and secure during break.

These are just a few remarkable examples of our employee and student commitment to the entire campus. Of course, there are so many additional examples that easily could be cited here. During this holiday break and every day of the year, I witness and marvel at our faculty, staff, and administrators positive attitude, work ethic, and commitment to each other and to our students. I am filled with respect and admiration.

Happy New Year and all the best to each of you as we begin spring term 2015.

Sincerely,

Devorah Lieberman, Ph.D.
President