July 11, 2014

I trust you are enjoying your summer months and finding needed time to spend with friends and family. This past weekend, we all took time to recognize the value and importance of our nation’s independence. The Fourth of July holiday, especially in La Verne, is a day of celebration for our freedom and a time to express our national pride. It was a joy for Roger and me to participate in the Fourth of July events sponsored by the City of La Verne. We, along with many of our La Verne staff and alumni, rode in the annual parade and later attended the picnic and fireworks show at Bonita High School with some of our Board members. I would like to encourage all of us to incorporate the pride we feel on the Fourth of July into our everyday lives and celebrate being Leos.

For 124 years, the University of La Verne has been accomplishing much for which we should be proud. We have been continually committed to academic excellence and lifelong learning, inclusivity and diversity, ethical reasoning, and civic and community engagement – but not everyone outside of our immediate region who should have known about the accomplishments and quality of our faculty, staff and students was aware of our successes and triumphs.

I am pleased that recently we have been receiving national attention for many of our accomplishments. Earlier this week, Public Relations Director Alisha Rosas and I met with six major national higher education publication offices in Washington, DC. During each meeting, La Verne’s achievements were highlighted and interest was sparked about the successes of our students, and the significant work of our faculty, staff and trustees at the University. Inside Higher Education, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Peer Review, CASE/Currents, Trusteeship (published by AGB), and the U.S. Department of Education were all eager to learn more of the various ways La Verne is a forward thinking institution, leading positive trends in many areas of higher education.
In line with our 2020 Strategic Vision, these meetings, along with many other initiatives from various departments on campus, significantly increase La Verne’s visibility and enhance our national reputation. Please join me in continuing to share La Verne’s stories and express to everyone how proud we are to be Leos. If you are on campus Monday or Tuesday, you will be pleased to see that we are hosting the National Campus Compact meeting. Institutional presidents and state directors from across the country will be on our campus for this meeting. You will see them touring our campus and meeting in our surrounding communities with our institutional “civic engagement” community partners. This is a first for us!

I hope the rest of your summer continues to be restful and rejuvenating. I look forward to welcoming our incoming students in the fall and seeing everyone on campus soon.

Sincerely,

Devorah Lieberman, Ph.D.
President