March 30, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

I am compelled to share with you a provocative op-ed from the *New York Times* (February 11, 2015) and subsequent letter to the editor.

The author of the op-ed, Frank Bruni, describes the most transformative time in his life as the time he spent enthralled in a Shakespeare course at the University of North Carolina during his undergraduate years. He speaks of the importance, the value, and the significance of allowing higher education to broaden the mind with knowledge and skills. He argues that a broad undergraduate liberal education enriches the lives of students more than they can imagine.

As I read Bruni’s editorial, I felt as though he was articulating the mission and the story of the University of La Verne.

What Bruni describes, and what the respondents contribute in turn, identifies the purpose of the La Verne Advantage. We provide our students with a distinct, relevant, values-based education that not only equips them with the skills needed to be thriving citizens, professionals and community members, but also the skills to make ethical choices, be critical thinkers, and have the desire to always give back to their communities.

I invite you to read the article and the letters to the editor and consider how our commitment to providing an education that is distinctive, relevant and values-based reflects Bruni’s sentiments and meets the mission of our institution.

**College’s Priceless Value: Higher Education, Liberal Arts and Shakespeare**
The Mission of College? Think About It

Sincerely,

Devorah Lieberman, Ph.D.
President