November 20, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

There is often talk on campus and in our printed materials about ‘achieving more than you ever imagined.’ While this has been informally adopted as the University’s tagline, it rings true in many aspects of our campus. The following are just a few examples of how we are achieving more than we ever imagined.

Last week, the Board of Trustees approved the annual audit reports for the 2013-2014 fiscal year of the financial statements and the A-133 (Financial Aid). We should all feel proud of these impressive reports. Our audit showed a 15% increase in net assets, $3 million in private gifts and grants, $1.6 million in investment income, and an endowment market value of $63.2 million. The Office of Finance and the Office of Financial Aid have achieved completely error free audits for seven continuous years and eight years, respectively. The University’s outside audit firm has confirmed that this is “highly unusual” to have this level of accuracy, especially over multiple years. Please join me in congratulating Associate Vice President of Finance Lori Gordien-Case, the entire Finance Team, Director of Financial Aid Diane Anchundia, and the entire Financial Aid team for this exceptional feat!

Additionally, based on averages, our endowment has out-performed other institutions’ investments this year. Preliminary data of an annual survey of higher education investments states that most college endowments performed well. The average return for these endowments for FY 2014 was 15.8%. The University of La Verne’s endowment net return for the same period was 18.3%. Our endowment investment managers and Board of Trustees Investment Committee deserve credit and recognition for their prudent investment guidance over the years.
Not only are we exceeding expectations financially, but on a university-wide level as well. The 2014 Fall Preview Day last Saturday was an unprecedented success. The Office of Admissions received more than 1,400 positive RSVPs for this event, giving this Preview Day a record turnout. Dean of Admissions Chris Krzak shared with me some wonderful feedback he received from parents and students: “Today has helped me narrow my search and helped me decide to apply.”

“This is my third Preview Day at The University of La Verne and every time I come, I always have the best of time.”

“The information provided was very helpful and everyone involved, whether professors, students, or staff are always very kind and helpful.”

“I did not expect the University of La Verne to exceed my expectations. However, coming to Preview Day met every one of my expectations and beyond.”

Comments like these are wonderful testaments to the quality of La Verne’s programs, as well as the high caliber faculty and staff who help organize events like Preview Day.

Our student leaders are exceeding expectations as well. Just this week, the ASULV senate voted and passed the student honor code. This code will guide the behavior and choices made by our students in an effort to reinforce our values of ethical reasoning, lifelong learning, civic and community engagement, and diversity and inclusivity. We should be proud of the impressive initiative our students are taking on campus.

There are many more areas in which the University is exceeding expectations. Our students, faculty, and staff continue to work towards significant achievements in every facet of this institution and we should be proud of our community; one that never rests on its laurels. We continue to be strategic, accessible, and ultimately successful. There is substance and truth behind our tagline, “Achieve more than you ever imagined,” and for that, I am thankful.

Sincerely,

Devorah Lieberman, Ph.D.
President