September 11, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

Today marks the 13th Anniversary of the events of 9/11, a day that significantly impacted history and our world today. Many of us remember the day vividly, while for some of our students, the day may be a foggy memory from their early childhood. Regardless of where each of us was when the events occurred, September 11 should forever be a day that we remember.

Martin Luther King, Jr. succinctly said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” The events of September 11, 2001 were fueled by hate and created a very dark day in history, but we cannot dwell in that space or respond with more blind hatred. Instead, we must take this day to reflect and fuel our aspirations for light, peace, and love – not just for our country, but for everyone around the world.

I am proud that the University of La Verne is a place that embraces diversity and promotes tolerance and understanding. Our students, faculty, and staff come from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and religions and we strive to create a space where new perspectives are welcomed and encouraged. We are a community that plays an active part in finding common ground among all people, and that we are molding future world leaders that will help achieve global peace.

Please join me in remembering those who gave their lives on September 11, 2001 during the tragedies of that day. Let us honor their memories by remembering those who acted with deep courage and the spirit of unity in our own nation, and the outpouring of support and compassion from around the world. In remembrance, let us strive toward building relationships – personally, nationally and internationally – that build trust, resilience, and peace. Let us all be beacons of hope for a better future.

Sincerely,

Devorah Lieberman, Ph.D.
President