

Dear Leos,

Amidst all the chaos and challenge of this unprecedented year, we find ourselves reflecting back on the high notes—the moments that illustrated our strong sense of community and resilience. There have been many examples this year of folks stepping up to lend a hand in ways great and small, assisting loved ones and total strangers. It happened all around us, every day. These were the positive pandemic responses that brought smiles to our faces and warmed our hearts.

It is no coincidence that across cultures and religions, winter is the season of light. Diwali, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas—all of these celebrations center on peace and hope, on surviving the dark days of winter together. As we settle down for a quiet holiday at home, we thought you'd enjoy a look back on our favorite, feel-good moments. While we cannot gather in traditional fashion this year, we hope that you will be warmed by the inspiring Leo stories below and remember our universal hopes for peace and joy in the coming year.

Be well, Leos!



Kim Grant

Kim Grant, Assistant Vice President of Alumni Engagement

2020 Holiday Video

Happy holidays from the University of La Verne! Wishing you joy of mind, health of body, and strength of spirit this holiday season and throughout the new year.



The Best of the University of La Verne 2020

Our Leo community responded, rallied, and rose to meet the many challenges of 2020. Here are some of our favorite feel-good moments that made us proud to be Leos during this historic year.



1. Many [#LeoHeroes](#) could be found working on the frontlines of the pandemic, selflessly putting their lives on the line to help others.

2. More than \$300,000 was raised in a matter of weeks for the [University of La Verne Student Emergency Fund](#) and the [Campaign Against Student Hunger](#).

3. [The Education Resources Hub](#), started on Facebook by an Alumni Advisory Board member, helped parents at home with young children.



4. ["Light It Blue!"](#) Founders Hall shone brightly in support of frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Our newly established [Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) launched an [Anti-Racism Initiative](#) in the wake of the George Floyd protests, affirming our commitment to an environment that is friendly and nurturing to all.

6. The groundbreaking Integrated Business Program pioneered by the College of Business and Public Management [raised nearly \\$8,000 for local charities](#).

7. Students in our popular Physician Assistant program stepped up



and [did their part to help with the global pandemic](#).

8. LaFetra College of Education and San Bernardino City Unified School District joined forces [to help neurodivergent learners succeed during the pandemic](#).

9. Generous alum and dedicated lawyer Frank J. Lizarraga, Jr.'80 made the University of La Verne the first university certified by the State Bar of California to have an [Endowed Dean](#). Says Frank: "I am so proud of how well the college's graduates are serving their local communities, and with this gift, I want to inspire my fellow established lawyers to support the college's mission."



10. Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't thank you one last time for helping us to complete [Create the Future: The Campaign for the University of La Verne](#) one year early! Thanks to your extraordinary passion and generosity, our university will keep pushing fearlessly into the future, making a quality education accessible to all.



Office of Alumni Engagement

University of La Verne | 1950 Third Street, La Verne, CA 91750