FROM THE CLAREMONT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Addressing the Need For a Society 4.0

What a tremendous year 2015 has been for Claremont Lincoln University – one filled with great strides in our academic programs and student achievements, growth in our staff and operating capabilities, and increased exposure across the nation and around the world to our mission of teaching people to work together to bring about positive social change as it becomes ever more increasing in importance.

At the Parliament of the World’s Religions conference in Salt Lake City this past October, I spoke on the topic of the need for humankind to progress to a level of Society 4.0.

As societies have evolved they have moved from *monarchies and tribal leadership (1.0)* through *government and industry control (2.0)* to *special interests (3.0)*, where we operate now. Society today is characterized by rigid collectivism where people interact primarily with those who look, think and behave as they do; by fundamentalism where there is only one right answer; and a propensity for argument and debate.

As a society, we are in gridlock and it is time to move to a new model (4.0) where there is a *focus on common interest and a civil society* that is open-minded and sees differences as assets not liabilities. Our world is in an era of transition that requires leaders and practitioners to expand their context of understanding to include new and diverse forms of engagement.

In the fall we launched a new educational offering in the form of certificates. The Interfaith Understanding Certificate is our first step toward supporting the concept of **Society 4.0** to the general public in a radically accessible and affordable manner. We are currently working on the next offering within our certificates including the Claremont Core® and ethical leadership. Our plan is to offer certificates at levels that address the needs of the general public, professional practitioner and the academic scholar, so that we can realize our mission on a broader and more global scale and enable individuals to resolve conflict in a peaceful and co-creative way.

At CLU, we are committed to providing people with options to violence, argument and discrimination when addressing personal, workplace and community differences. We have the passion and ability to make the world a better place. We look forward to a robust 2016 and beyond and invite you to become part of this important change effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eileen Aranda, President