

Devorah Lieberman PHD



Devorah Lieberman is a nationally recognized leader in higher education, healthcare, and business, with a career defined by transformative leadership, strategic innovation, and a steadfast commitment to equity and student success. From 2011 to 2023, she served as the 18th president of the University of La Verne, becoming the first woman to hold the role in the institution's 135-year history. She currently holds the title of President Emerita and leads Lieberman & Associates, LLC, a consulting firm that advises organizations across multiple sectors.

As principal of Lieberman & Associates, she provides strategic guidance in areas such as institutional visioning, philanthropy, crisis management, executive coaching, and board governance. Her current professional roles include President-in-Residence at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education (2025–2026), Senior Advisor to the President of the American Council on Education, and Chief Strategy Officer for the International Association of University Presidents. She also consults for the Phoenix Philanthropy Group, serves as an affiliate consultant for CREDO, and provides executive coaching to university leaders and corporate executives.

Lieberman's 12-year presidency at the University of La Verne was marked by institutional growth, academic innovation, and a deepened commitment to access and inclusion. She expanded enrollment across multiple programs, nearly doubled the university's operating budget from \$118 million to \$220 million, and quadrupled the endowment from \$36 million to \$151 million. Under her leadership, the university earned national recognition for social mobility, being ranked the #1 private institution in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

She also oversaw major campus developments and strengthened support systems for first-generation and underserved students.

Before joining La Verne, Lieberman served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Wagner College in New York, where she advanced academic programming and community engagement. Earlier, she spent 17 years at Portland State University, where she served as a professor and vice provost, focusing on student retention, faculty development, and program assessment.

In addition to her leadership work, Lieberman remains active in scholarship and thought leadership. In 2024, she published *Spotlighting Female Leadership: Strategies, Stories, Perspectives* with the International Association of University Presidents. She also regularly contributes to blogs published by the American Council on Education and the Phoenix Philanthropy Group.

Lieberman began her academic journey at Mt. San Antonio College, earned her bachelor's degree from Humboldt State University, a master's degree in Intercultural Communication from San Diego State University, and a Ph.D. in Intercultural Communication and Gerontology from the University of Florida.

Her achievements have earned her numerous honors, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (2016) and multiple "Woman of the Year" recognitions in 2023. She holds honorary doctorates from Wagner College, I-Shou University in Taiwan, and Western University of Health Sciences.

Lieberman also contributes her expertise to numerous nonprofit and corporate boards, including the International Association of University Presidents, Antioch University, San Antonio Regional Hospital, and the Airway Revolution. Her work continues to shape educational policy and leadership on a global scale.