

August 2, 2017

Greetings!

The Mercy Education System of the Americas (MESA) officially opened on July 3, 2017. As we begin as a new ministry we are aware that some of you have recently opened for a new school year (Philippines), have just completed winter break (Argentina), are on summer break or are just ending your break (USA). What a different perspective as we form our system of education ministries.

As a MESA staff we had a full week working together and getting to know one another. One of our goals during our first week was to begin to identify priorities for the coming months. We will be focusing our energies on preparing the orientation program for new administrators, transitioning the programs and services from Network for Mercy Education and reviewing and implementing the work of the task forces. We will also be taking time to visit several of our education ministries who have new heads of school. We have ten new administrators with seven of these being the head of school.

One major priority for Sr. Lisa is to visit all the ministries within the system by June of 2018. She began this process in January and has made it to Argentina, Belize, Honduras, Jamaica, and Oklahoma City. Current trips planned are to Guam and California. While at the ministries Sr. Lisa is visiting with members of the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students. She is also touching base with the local Sisters of Mercy and visiting with the local bishop when possible.

Over the past several months we have been asked about our educational background so we thought this would be a wonderful opportunity to share them with you.

Sr. Lisa – I began my postsecondary education at Meridian Junior College where I received my AA degree. I earned my bachelor's in business education from University of Missouri-St. Louis and a master's in counseling from Creighton University. I also earned my secondary school administration certification from the University of Dayton.

I have taught business, theology, and psychology and have served as a counselor and assistant principal. I served in our education ministries in New Orleans, Little Rock, and Savannah.

Jennifer – I attended high school at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Little Rock, Arkansas. I then went to college at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Communications. Mercy called me back to Mount Saint Mary Academy in Little Rock where I worked in admissions and recruitment for five years. After having my second daughter I became a stay at home mom, what a blessing to have had that opportunity. In 2015, I began working with the Mercy Education System Project as the Project Manager. My new role in the Mercy Education System is that of Executive Assistant. I am both blessed and excited to continue working in Mercy education.

Kimberly - My educational background includes receiving a bachelor's degree (BA) in History from Providence College. I achieved a master's degree (MA) in History from Villanova University and earned a master's degree (M Ed) in education administration from Cabrini University.

I taught in the Social Studies department at Merion Mercy Academy, specializing in the teaching of Government and Economics, for twenty-six years. There I additionally had the pleasure of serving as the department chairperson for 15 years. My Mercy experience also includes becoming an Associate in Mercy and, over the past six year, being a member of the Sponsor Council for the Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic community. Furthermore, I have served as a trustee on the Waldron Mercy Academy Board, most recently as its chairperson.

Sr. Regina - My education has afforded me a bachelor's degree (BA) in mathematics from Gwynedd Mercy University; a master's in education (MAed) from Acadia University and certification in secondary administration and supervision from Saint Joseph University, Philadelphia.

I taught seventh and eighth grade in various schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for twelve years; I taught mathematics at Archbishop Prendergast High School for six years and spent fourteen years in administration at Merion Mercy Academy first as vice-principal and then as head of school as principal. My last eight years have been spent as Vocation Minister for the Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community.

It has been a blessing for us to come together as the MESA staff and look forward to interacting with all of you!

In the letter from the Mercy Education System Board you learned that they are seeking additional members to serve on the board committees for finance, policy and procedures, and stewardship. If you are interested in serving on a committee please click [here](#) to complete the interest form which is due by Friday, August 25, 2017. Also, please feel free to forward this link to others who may be interested.

We look forward to seeing you all at the annual administrator meeting and conference in Omaha on October 12, 2017. Information regarding the administrator meeting can be found at this link: <http://mercyedu.org/leadership-formation/>. If you need registration

information for the conference you may use this link: <http://mercyedu.org/annual-conference/>.

Also, if you have not taken the opportunity please visit our new website at mercyedu.org.

In Mercy,

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Executive Director

Kimberly Baxter

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Jennifer Lasseter

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