

2018 Mercy Education Conference

PROGRAM OF EVENTS



Relationships
Equality
Solidarity
Partnerships
Education
Care
Trust



Hosted by Merion Mercy Academy

October 11-13, 2018
DoubleTree by Hilton | King of Prussia, Pennsylvania



Mercy Education | Educación de la Misericordia
System of the Americas | de las Américas

About This Year's Theme: R-E-S-P-E-C-T



The 2018 Mercy Education Conference will address the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concern for Women.

Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy, had a special concern for women and girls. Her work to empower young women in Dublin, Ireland, continues to inspire our work as educators. Today, gender inequality still exists, yet we have the opportunity to empower our students, young women and men alike, to be agents of change -- to embrace equality, to celebrate the contributions of women, to advocate for equal rights and to speak out against discrimination. For this, we must give special attention to the education, health and spirituality of our students.

Our conference will examine the Mercy Critical Concern for Women through the lenses of:



*Relationships
Equality
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Trust*

Guided by the Mercy charism, may we foster “R-E-S-P-E-C-T” in our classrooms, schools and communities.

Thank You to the Members of the 2018 Conference Committee

Kimberly Baxter
Associate Director for Programs and Services
Mercy Education System of the Americas

Karen L. Calta
Assistant Directress, Faculty & Curriculum
Mount Saint Mary Academy

Angie Collins
Principal
Mount St. Mary Academy

Whitney Faires
Vice Principal
Mount St. Mary Catholic High School

Nancy Kelly, RSM
Executive Assistant to the President
Notre Dame High School

Anne Knapke
Principal
Gwynedd-Mercy Academy Elementary School

Jamie Landry
Executive Assistant
Mercy Education System of the Americas

Holly McCoy, Committee Chair
Assistant Principal for Student Life
Mercy High School

Program Schedule

ADMINISTRATOR MEETING

11
THU

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Lunch with Administrators

1:00 - 5:00 pm

Meeting for School Administrators

4:00 - 7:00 pm

Conference Registration Opens

EDUCATION CONFERENCE

12
FRI

7:30 - 8:30 am

Breakfast and Registration

8:30 - 9:30 am

Welcoming Remarks and Opening Prayer

9:45 - 11:45 am

Keynote Address: Amie Konwinski, "Educating the iGen"

11:45 am

Announcements and Door Prizes

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Amie Konwinski and Panel of School Counselors, "Supporting the Health and Wellness of our Students"

2:45 - 3:45 pm

Breakout Sessions by Specialty/Department/Area of Expertise

Optional Night Out Activities - see page 5

13
SAT

7:30 - 8:30 am

Breakfast

8:30 - 9:00 am

Prayer and Announcements

9:00 - 11:00 am

Keynote Address: Sister Janet Ruffing, RSM, "Reflections on Spirituality for Mercy Educators for our Times"

11:00

Announcements and Door Prizes

11:30 - 12:30 pm

Lunch

12:30 - 2:00 pm

Small-Group Discussions and Large-Group Sharing

3:00 pm

Depart for Merion Mercy Academy

4:00 - 9:00 pm

Mass at Sisters of Mercy Chapel, followed by entertainment, cocktails, tours and dinner. Bus transportation from hotel to Mercy Chapel will be provided. For those who wish to drive, [directions are available here](#).

Keynote Speaker



Amie Konwinski

Amie is the founder and CEO for Smart Girl Society. Her life journey led her from a tumultuous childhood and teenage displacement, to joining the U.S. Navy at just 17 years old. Serving as a data processor for five years on active duty, Amie was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and on the U.S.S. Shenandoah (AD-44), docked out of Norfolk, Virginia.

After an honorable discharge from active duty, Amie joined the reserves to complete another nine years of service and became a Company Commander and highly decorated Chief Petty Officer (ITC) by the age of 29. In the civilian world, Amie began her computer engineering career at Sterling Software (now Northrop Grumman), where she met her husband, Roger, and attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Communications.

After the birth of their second daughter, Amie traded in her computer tools for diapers, marketing materials and volunteering, and had three more daughters in six years (yes, that makes five daughters). Amie, Roger and their three youngest live in Omaha, Nebraska. Daughter #1 graduated from NYU and continues to live in the Big Apple, while #2 is a student at her parent's alma mater, UNO.

As an avid traveler, National Park lover, and wanderlust sufferer, Amie has adventured in 49 states and hopped the pond nine times. In her free-time she enjoys Sudoku, reading and napping.

Panel of School Counselors



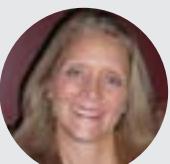
Emily Cady

Emily Cady serves as a high school counselor and is the newly appointed Director of Wellness at Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women in Rochester, New York. Working with the counseling staff and administration, Emily is spearheading new wellness initiatives that include preventative and enhanced social emotional programming, community-wide wellness efforts and a new wellness center. She has a passion for empowering and educating young women to live healthy and joyful lives, and has over 16 years of experience in educational settings in Ohio, Illinois, New Jersey and New York. Emily holds a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University and a M.A. from Rider University. She recently completed coursework to become a certified life and career coach. Emily also enjoys running, theatre and dance parties in the kitchen with her three children and husband.



Kristin Fromal

Kristin Fromal is the school counselor at Gwynedd-Mercy Academy Elementary (K-8) in Spring House, Pennsylvania. The school counseling position was new to Gwynedd-Mercy Academy when Kristin began, and she developed a program based on the American School Counselor Association model, ensuring that it was firmly rooted in Mercy. Prior to her position at GMA she was a school counselor in the School District of Philadelphia at Warren G. Harding Middle School and Thomas Creighton Elementary. Before becoming a school counselor, Kristin worked as a litigation attorney. Kristin holds a B.A. from Duke University, JD and MSW from the University of Pennsylvania and school counselor certification from Gwynedd Mercy University. Kristin is an adjunct instructor in counseling at Gwynedd Mercy University, teaching courses in Intervention Techniques and College and Career Readiness.



Kathleen Ketofsky

Kathleen Ketofsky joined Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung, New Jersey, in 2015 as the student assistance counselor. She holds a BA in Psychology from Drew University and an MSW from Rutgers. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 25 years of clinical practice specializing in adolescents, families and substance abuse. Kathleen has been a student assistance counselor in schools for the last 16 years and maintains a private practice in Somerset and Middlesex counties in New Jersey. She is the co-chair of the Association of Student Assistance Coordinators in Somerset County, and she has presented at the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools conference. She has led numerous workshops in the field of mental health and crisis management. The proud mother of an adult son and daughter, Kathleen is also a passionate equestrian and animal lover.



Mary Terese Lopata

Mary Terese Lopata is in her 26th year as the school social worker at Mercy Career & Technical High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. "M.T." as she likes to be called, is a graduate of West Chester University and Temple University. She received her clinical social work license in September 2006. At Mercy, M.T. provides information and referrals to students and their families, performs home visits as needed, coordinates the Student Assistance Program, teaches a freshmen course on "handling life in a healthy manner" and is a member of the school's Institute for Excellence & Ethics leadership team. She attends many professional trainings addressing trauma that may affect students' school success. M.T. is Mercy Associate. She recently completed Penn State's Master Gardener program and is exploring horticultural therapy with students experiencing anxiety.

Keynote Speaker



**Sister Janet
Ruffing**

Sister Janet Ruffing, RSM, will offer reflections on encountering the gentleness and mercy of God at this moment in our history, share a framework for thinking critically about choosing spiritual practices and highlight the importance of fostering nonviolence and empathy in light of technological and social interruptions.

Janet is a Sister of Mercy from California who taught in Mercy secondary schools for 12 years before pursuing her Ph.D. in Christian Spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. She has taught and written extensively on the ministry of spiritual direction and chaired a Concentration in Spirituality and Spiritual Direction at Fordham University from 1986-2009. She was recruited by Yale Divinity School in 2009 to initiate a program in spirituality for this deeply ecumenical school where she is Professor of the Practice of Spirituality and Ministerial Leadership.

Optional Night Out Activities for Friday, October 12

LOCAL DINING, RETAIL AND ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS IN KING OF PRUSSIA

Bus transportation will be available to [Valley Forge Casino Resort](#), [King of Prussia Mall](#) and [King of Prussia Town Center](#).

At Valley Forge Casino, guests can enjoy dining options and entertainment including Karaoke Fridays.

King of Prussia Mall and King of Prussia Town Center offer a variety of retail stores and unique restaurants.

Price: \$5.00 for transportation,
meal not included

Bus times will be shared at the conference.

MERCY CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PLUS DRIVING TOUR OF PHILADELPHIA

Enjoy a tour of [Mercy Career and Technical High School](#), the only Catholic, co-educational career and technical high school in the United States.

Culinary students at the school will prepare a complimentary “taste of Philly” dinner.

To complete the evening, visitors will enjoy a driving tour of Philadelphia.

This option can accommodate up to 25 people.

Price: Free

Vans depart hotel at 4:15 p.m., return to hotel approximately 9 p.m.

Join Us Next Year

Mercy Education Conference 2019

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Hosted by Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School



Conference 2018 Evaluation Form

Your feedback is so important to us. Please complete the online evaluation form for the 2018 Mercy Education Conference:

bit.ly/mec-evaluation-2018

Link will be active on October 13. Thank you!