

Border Immersion Experience for Mercy Educators, Administrators, Board Members

Rio Grande Valley of South Texas (McAllen, Alamo)

April 19-24, 2020

Co-sponsored by the Mercy Education System of the Americas (MESA) and the Sisters of Mercy Institute Justice Team

"In the spirit of Catherine McAuley, the Mercy community advocates for the safety and protection of all migrants and for just and humane immigration reform in the United States that reunites families, provides a pathway to citizenship, protects young people and provides for fair enforcement of the law. We must work together to ensure the dignity of immigrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking and stand in solidarity with all who suffer oppression."

Who Can Participate? This border immersion experience will be specially designed for Mercy educators, administrators and others affiliated with our Mercy educational institutions (including board members, etc.).

Goal: Through experiential learning and reflection, participants will grow in their awareness of the Mercy Critical Concern for immigration and the challenges facing immigrant communities. Participants will return to their educational ministries with a plan to raise awareness about immigration and its root causes for students, colleagues, boards, churches and/or local communities.

Mercy education ministries are invited to send a delegate and help with financing.

Logistics:

- **Hosts:** This delegation is coordinated through ARISE, a community-based program that is a co-sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy and staffed by many Mercy associates.
- **Cost:** The delegation cost is approximately \$450/person for the five days, to cover hotel, food, transportation during the experience and ARISE fees. In addition, each delegate would make her/his own travel arrangements. Arrival airport is McAllen, Texas (MFE).
- **Itinerary:** trip to the border wall; meetings with immigrant rights organizations and border patrol agents; visit to a Church-based refugee center (including a volunteer experience to assist those recently released from border patrol); day trip to the Mexico side of the border (passport needed); and meeting ARISE staff, with visits to their Community Organizing Centers.

For more information and an application, respond [here](#).