

2024-2025

NEW LEADER ORIENTATION PROGRAM



Mercy Education
Educación de la Misericordia

WELCOME TO MERCY EDUCATION'S NEW LEADER ORIENTATION PROGRAM!

This brochure details offers for the 2024-2025 academic year. Most sessions are offered twice; you may choose the date and time slot that works best for your schedule when you register. You will receive connection instructions and any supporting materials once you register. For questions and registration information, please contact [Susan Smith, Associate Director for Leadership Formation](#).

[Please use this link to register.](#)

Ethical Decision Making - *Sr. Pat Talone, RSM*

Wednesday, November 6, 11 am ET and Wednesday, November 13, 6 pm ET

The presentation explores the WHY of making ethical decisions – aligning what we do with who we say we are. It provides a model of and clear steps for making key ethical decisions, particularly in an educational setting. Furthermore, it shows how Catholic teaching and Mercy values assist in what can often be a challenging process. Participants are encouraged to reflect before the meeting and come with at least one experience of ethical import from their own professional lives.

Grace Under Fire: Crisis Communications - *Debbi Della Porta*

Tuesday, January 28, 11 am and 6 pm ET

This presentation will dive into learnings from crisis situations that may arise in Mercy schools, including employment issues and allegations of abuse. Case studies from the Sisters of Mercy will help participants prepare for and evaluate their response to crisis situations.

Servant Leadership - *Sr. Mandy Carrier, RSM*

Monday, February 10, 11 am and 5:30 pm ET

What does it mean to be a Mercy servant leader? This session will review the characteristics of a servant leader, with a particular focus on the virtues of Community-building, empathy, listening, healing, empowerment and more.

Strengthening Our Catholic and Mercy Identity, Now and Into the Future: Mercy Education Leadership in Relationship with the Church - *Sr. Terri Bednarz, RSM*

Wednesday, March 19, 11 am and 6 pm ET

This presentation will explore what it means to be prophetic leaders in our Catholic and Mercy schools. We will discuss strategies for deepening our Catholic and Mercy identity and strengthening our relationship with the Church through theological and Biblical education.

SPEAKERS



Sister Terri Bednarz, RSM, currently serves on the Institute Leadership Team of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She received her B.A. in secondary education with majors in history and learning abilities. Over the years, she served in various educational ministries, including teaching 9th thru 12th grades in Mount St. Mary High School in Oklahoma City and Mount St. Mary Academy in Little Rock. She taught primarily religious studies, theology, social justice classes and developed service-learning and immersive learning programs. Sister Terri completed her master's in biblical Interpretation at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago (2002) and her doctorate in Biblical Studies at Texas Christian University (2009). She taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Biblical Studies at Loyola University in New Orleans (2009-2020) before being called to serve in Mercy leadership.



Sister Mandy Carrier, RSM, is a Sister of Mercy of the Americas and a campus minister. She recently completed a Master of Arts in theology at Villanova University. Before that, she worked on social justice concerns, including the degradation of Earth, at Mercy International Association-Global Action at the United Nations. Mandy enjoys creating, crafting, and cooking for her community in Philadelphia, especially baking homemade bread.



Debbi Della Porta serves as a senior communications advisor for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She supports the Sisters of Mercy's mission, vision, and values by facilitating communications projects and serving as an advisor to the Institute Communications Officer. Prior to this position, she was the Institute's director of external communications for 2.5 years and the director of communications for Sisters of Mercy in Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the New York area for 16 years. She has handled crisis communications regarding church issues such as the Apostolic Visit and same sex marriage, the closing of four schools, potential strikes, organizational changes and controversial sales of properties.



Sister Patricia Talone, RSM, Ph.D., is a consultant, lecturer and writer in the areas of mission, ethics and formation. From 2003-2016, Sister Patricia was Vice President for Mission Services at the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Having taught at every level from grade three through graduate school, Sister Patricia brings a broad educational background. She holds a PhD in theological ethics from Marquette University, an MA in Religious Studies from St. Charles Seminary, and a BA in Humanities from Gwynedd-Mercy College. In 1996, she spent a semester as a visiting fellow at Georgetown University's Kennedy School of Ethics.



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