

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

July 24-25, 2023.....Belmont, North Carolina



Artwork by Gavina de Castro



Mercy Education
Educación de la Misericordia



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Leadership is a central tenet of all Mercy ministries. Partners in Ministry Leadership Academy is an opportunity to collectively witness to its importance in furthering Catherine McAuley's mission.

Who attends? Those newly appointed to a leadership position in the school (faculty/staff/administration/board); those relatively new to a Mercy school; those who seek renewal or would like to explore a greater exercise of leadership; those who wish to know more about the charism, core values and tradition of Mercy that they might share more fully in the mission of Mercy.

Each participant shares in the learning and dialogue. Individually and communally, there is renewed faithfulness to the mission of Mercy. Participants return to their ministries with an increased capacity to embrace and enhance the Mercy charism in their school communities. Participants are encouraged to reflect on their individual gifts, to dialogue with others and to return to their ministry committed to exercising leadership for mission.

Location: Mercy Center, 101 Mercy Drive, Belmont, North Carolina. Accommodations will be provided at Mercy Center and a nearby hotel. More information will be provided following registration.

Dates: Monday, July 24, and Tuesday, July 25. The program will end at 12 noon. Following the program, all are welcome for an optional session from 1-3 pm to share best practices around timely topics within our Mercy schools.

Costs: Mercy Education will cover the cost of the hotel stay, meals during the program, transportation from hotel to Mercy Center, and other meeting related costs. Schools will be responsible for transportation costs to Belmont (flights, mileage, ride shares, etc.). Prior to the event, Mercy Education will collect and share flight information from participants to help with arranging carpools from the airport to Mercy Center and/or the hotel.

Questions: Contact Kimberly Baxter: kbaxter@sistersofmercy.org or 610-331-2255.

Registration: Please register here by June 15.



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Agenda

Monday, July 24, 2023

11:30 am – 12 pm	Registration
12 – 1 pm	Lunch
1 – 1:30 pm	Opening Prayer and Introductions
1:30 – 2:45 pm	<p>Walking in the Footsteps of Catherine: Virtual Tour of Mercy International Centre in Dublin, Ireland Presenter: Elizabeth Donahue</p> <p>This presentation will include a virtual tour of Mercy International Centre, covering the history of the founding of the Sisters of Mercy. It will also discuss how Catherine McAuley's leadership qualities developed as she built the community of the Sisters of Mercy.</p>
2:45 – 3 pm	Break
3 – 4:30 pm	<p>Put On Your Own Oxygen Mask First: Teacher & Staff Social-Emotional Needs Matter Presenter: Amanda Ables</p> <p>Years of living and working in a global pandemic have led to many teachers placing their own social and emotional health as their lowest priority. This has led to higher rates of depression, anxiety and burn out across the field of education. This presentation seeks to discuss current concerns for teacher and staff mental health with specific suggestions for strategies to alleviate stress and create a healthier workplace overall.</p>
4:30 – 5:30 pm	<p>Personal Call to Mercy Education Presenter: Elizabeth Wilson</p> <p>Elizabeth will impart her personal journey to and with Mercy education, sharing how leadership as a layperson is furthering the Mercy mission.</p>



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5:30 – 6 pm	Table Group Discussion
6 – 7 pm	Dinner
7 – 8:15 pm	<p>Embracing Our Communal Call to Mercy through the Lens of Our Interculturality Presenter: Ivette Diaz, RSM</p> <p>This session will help us to understand the term <i>interculturality</i> and the importance for educators to embrace the need to be aware of the cultural background of their students. It will help them to create bridges to value the similarities and differences that make each culture unique and valued.</p> <p>This workshop aligns with one of the Core Values of Mercy Education, A Voice For Dignity and Respect: “Mercy students honor the intrinsic value of the individual and recognize God’s presence in each person. We embrace a global vision and value differences of opinion, and are unafraid to confront hostile or hurtful attitudes. By standing up for those who can’t, we go beyond acceptance to help make sure everyone feels recognized and heard.”</p>
8:15 – 8:30 pm	Closing Prayer
8:30 pm	Social Time

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

8 – 8:45 am	Breakfast
8:45 – 9 am	Opening Prayer
9 – 9:30 am	<p>Social Justice Advocacy Presenter: Rose Marie Tresp, RSM</p> <p>Sr. Rose Marie will offer an overview of Mercy advocacy work and share ways in which school leaders and educators can be involved.</p>





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9:30 – 10:15 am	We Are Mercy Education Presenters: Mercy Education Staff Mercy Education staff will provide an overview of their work and share opportunities for participants to engage in programs, access resources and connect through education cohorts.
10:15 – 10:30 am	Break
10:30 – 11 am	Table Group Discussions and Large Group Sharing
11 – 12 pm	“What Then Must We Do?” (Luke 3:10) Blessings and Burdens of Leadership Today: Responding to the Calls of our Time Presenter: Pat Coward, RSM In Luke 3, when told by John the Baptist to prepare the way, the crowds ask, “What then must we do?” We have been asking that question ever since as in every era we wonder and worry how best to prepare the way of Jesus. The same holds true in Mercy Education. Called to leadership in an ever changing and challenging society, what are our sources of strength and encouragement that are rooted in the charism of Mercy?
12:00 – 12:15 pm	Closing Prayer
12:15 – 1 pm	Lunch
1 – 3 pm	Blessings and Challenges of Leadership – Open Forum Facilitated by Mercy Education staff This optional open forum is an opportunity for participants to discuss the challenges that Mercy schools are facing including: mental health concerns for students; safety concerns in light of the epidemic of school shootings; gender identity topics and how we can best welcome our LGBTQIA+ students. Best practices will be shared among colleagues from our international education community.





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Presenters



Amanda Ables formerly served as the Director of Community Wellness & Learning Differences at Mercy Academy in Louisville, Kentucky and is currently serving as Pediatric Psychologist at Norton Children's Hospital. She earned her undergraduate degrees in English and Psychology from the University of Kentucky and her Masters and Doctorate in Psychology from Indiana University-Bloomington. Amanda has spent the last 16 years working with children, adolescents and adults in school, university and clinical settings addressing behavioral, social and emotional health challenges across settings.



Sister Pat Coward, RSM, earned her undergrad degree in Physical Education and Health from Salisbury State College, Maryland, and a Master's degree in School Administration from the University of Dayton in Ohio. She served at several Mercy schools, including St. Vincent's Academy in Savannah, Georgia, 1987-2012, where her teaching positions included physical education and health, Holocaust studies and comparative literature. She served as assistant principal, 1991-2012, and also coached volleyball, track, basketball and soccer.

Sister Pat served on the Board of the Mercy Secondary Education Association and the Mercy Network Board. She recently completed nine years in leadership on the South Central Leadership Team. Sister Pat was a part of the leadership committee responsible for the project of creating Mercy Education. She is currently serving as an Institute Minister for the Sisters of Mercy.



Sister Ivette Diaz, RSM, is a Sister of Mercy. She holds a masters degree in religious education and social work both from Fordham University. She recently completed a graduate certificate in Intercultural Leadership from the University of Maryland-Baltimore. Sister Ivette has ministered in a variety of ministries including youth ministry, social work, and vocation ministry for candidates for religious life. Currently she is ministering in the capacity of resource to the Sisters of Mercy in regards to issues around the topic of interculturality.



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Presenters



Elizabeth Donahue is the Head of International Engagement for Mercy International Association in Dublin, Ireland. In her role, she coordinates virtual programs, communicates on behalf of Mercy International, and works to engage the Mercy community in the life and legacy of Catherine McAuley. She recently completed her Master's in Sustainable Development and has a bachelor's in graphic design. Elizabeth spent many years working in communications and marketing including as Director of Marketing at Mercy Volunteer Corps. She took her covenant as a Mercy Associate and is a proud alumna of Merion Mercy Academy in Pennsylvania. She is passionate about cultural inclusivity and community service and has led multiple service immersion trips including to Honduras and Ecuador as well as visiting Mercy ministries throughout the world.



Sister Rose Marie Tresp, RSM, is a member of the Mercy Justice Team working with the Mercy presence in 17 mostly southern states since 2008. Sister Rose Marie has served as the director of ethics for hospitals in Texas and Arkansas, as well as in leadership for the Sisters of Mercy, Regional Community of St. Louis. Sister Rose Marie earned her bachelor's degree from Fontbonne College in St. Louis, and her master's degree in religious studies from Boston College. She also completed graduate work in ethics and philosophy at Georgetown University. Sister Rose Marie is active in social justice work following the teachings of the Catholic Church at the local and national levels. As a member of the justice team, she has helped shape and carry out the Sisters of Mercy focus on immigration; the environment; women's rights; non-violence; and fighting poverty, prejudice, and racism.



Elizabeth Wilson, an Alabama native, but has called Nashville and Tennessee home for almost 25 years. She began her career in the banking and finance industry. In 2008, by a combination of divine intervention and sheer luck, she made her way to St. Bernard Academy where she has served as the Director of Admissions for 15 years. She also serves as the Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Coordinator and has been known to pinch hit as a substitute teacher, crossing guard, fill-in school nurse, and lice-checker. Elizabeth is married to David, who also came to her by way of some divine intervention and a little luck, and they are the parents of Larkin (15) and Henry (12). Elizabeth earned a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Economics from The University of Alabama, a Masters in Business Administration from Belmont University, and being a lover of academia, is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration at Tennessee State University.