

Celebrating Sister Corinne Raven, RSM



In this issue of *MESA Flash* we offer gratitude to Sister Corinne Raven, RSM (Corky) for her innumerable and continuing contributions to Mercy education. We at MESA wanted to take this moment to thank Sister Corinne as she transitions out of her work with Mercy

Learning Online, which was initiated by the Network for Mercy Education and is now a program of MESA. Mercy Learning Online will continue under the direction of Nell Stetser, MESA's new coordinator of online learning. Corky has shared with us her confidence that it will evolve, grow and meet the current and emerging needs of our Mercy schools.

"As Corky concludes her formal role in Mercy education, we wish to thank her," said Sister Lisa Griffith, RSM, executive director of the Mercy Education System of the Americas (MESA). "Her passion for education, her dedication to serving our Mercy students and her indomitable yet humble spirit have built the solid foundation on which MESA stands today. To know Corinne, or Corky as she is known by her friends, is to know a woman of Mercy," said Lisa. "We are blessed by her contributions – past, present and future – and we know our Mercy educators and administrators can reap great inspiration from her legacy."

We invited Sisters Cathleen Cahill, RSM, with whom Corky served in administration at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, and Mary McCarthy, RSM, leader in the Mercy Secondary Education Association (MSEA), co-chair of the Network Board and fellow administrator—both of whom have enjoyed long professional and personal relationships with Sister Corinne—to offer their insights.

"Corky is the type of person who sees a need, jumps in and says, 'Let me help you with that,'" said Sister Cathleen. Corky shares, "The blessing of seeing a need and being able to help has been the gift of working with Sisters of Mercy and lay women and men in Mercy education who were dedicated, committed and forever caring. I learned the gift of our international and intercultural reality and our shared charism and commitment to furthering that charism."

When the Network for Mercy Education was founded in 1999, Sister Corinne became its director. "Everything changed," said Sister Mary McCarthy. "Network grew significantly under her leadership. She probably had insight that she was prepping it for



something bigger, getting it ready for MESA as we know it today.” Mary continued, “The goal when we came together as MSE, was to be stronger together than we could be as individuals. Mutual support, professional development—all those things became stronger if we worked together. Corky could always see that vision.”

Corky shares, “When Mary speaks of vision and strength together, I give thanks for her leadership and untiring commitment to this day and that of the leaders of our Mercy schools and communities, the Mercy Secondary Education Association and the Network for Mercy Education. All worked with a common purpose and continue to do so today for MESA and for the future of Mercy education.”

We noted above that Corky will transition from Mercy Learning Online, and we give thanks for its beginnings made possible in the earliest years of the Network for Mercy Education by its visionary board. From the early 2000s, Mercy school administrators and teachers recognized that online learning would be a critical tool for our schools to embrace into the future. Mercy educators have served as teachers for the online courses since Mercy Online Learning’s beginnings, and their creativity and commitment to innovation and quality have resulted in its growth and continued excellence.

As MESA assumes full responsibility for Mercy Learning Online, and as we say thank you to Corky for her leadership for this program, she expresses her gratitude for all who have sustained it over the years and will develop it into the future. “The future of Mercy education is marked by courage, faith and a shared commitment,” Corky said. “To have served has been a privilege. Mercy education will always have my care, love and support.”

Thank you, Sister Corinne! Salamat! Gracias! Si Yu'os Ma'åse'