



Mercy Education  
System of the Americas

Educación de la Misericordia  
de las Américas

## Partners in Ministry Leadership Academy

**WHERE WILL WE GATHER?** Baltimore, MD-The Embassy Suites Hotel at BWI Airport  
1300 Concourse Drive, Linthicum, MD 21090

**WHEN?** Monday, July 23, 2018-starting at 12:00 noon-Tuesday, July 24, 2018-ending at 12:30 pm.

**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.

**WHAT MAKES THE EXPERIENCE VALUABLE?** Each participant shares in the learning and dialogue, giving and receiving from whatever role the person holds. Individually and communally, there is renewed faithfulness to the mission of Mercy. Each person returns to her/his ministry with ideas and an increased capacity to make Mercy stronger each day. It comes from a willingness to reflect on one's own gifts, share with others and return to one's ministry committed and recommitted to exercising leadership for mission.

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

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**EXPENSES:** The Mercy Education System of the America pays for ONE night of hotel accommodations, food, and the program. Ministries pay for travel.

**HOTEL:** Hotel accommodations will be provided at the Embassy Suites at the BWI Airport, 1300 Concourse Drive, Linthicum, MD 21090. The hotel will provide complimentary self-parking and room internet access. MESA will cover the cost of ONE night's stay on Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. FYI: If you need to book an additional night at the hotel, the MESA block rate is \$129.00/night. **This rate is only available until June 22, 2018.**

**SHUTTLE SERVICE:** A complimentary shuttle service from the BWI Airport terminal and the Amtrak/MARC Station at BWI Airport is provided by the hotel. Call **410-850-0747** to request shuttle service.

**DRESS:** Dress for the leadership academy is summer casual. **MEALS:** Lunch & dinner on Monday and breakfast & lunch on Tuesday are provided.

**GIFT EXCHANGE:** Please bring a gift from your ministry to exchange (i.e. mug, a t-shirt, sweatshirt, other swag). Each person who brings a gift will take one home.

**REGISTRATION:** Please click on the [link](#) to submit the Leadership Academy [Registration Form](#) to MESA. Requested return: Friday, June 15, 2018.

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Kimberly Baxter at MESA [kbaxter@sistersofmercy.org](mailto:kbaxter@sistersofmercy.org) or 610-331-2255 (C) or 301-273-9780 (Office Direct).



## Program Schedule

Monday, July 23, 2018

12:00 Arrival and Registration

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Opening Prayer and Introductions

2:00 “We are Mercy Education” presented by the Mercy Education System of the Americas staff

3:00 “Leadership in the Service of the Mission-Personal Call” Presentation, reflection, and sharing by a panel of administrators and educators: **Margaret Cronin-Mount Mercy Academy; Jennifer Kramer-Mercy High School-San Francisco; Jeffrey Mayer-Merion Mercy Academy and Maria Mutidjo-Convent of Mercy Academy.** The panelists will share their personal journey with Mercy education and their leadership in furthering the mission.



***Margaret M. (Peggy) Cronin** is a product of a Mercy Education. She currently serves as President of Mount Mercy Academy located in Buffalo New York. She started her career in healthcare where she served as Vice President of Mercy Hospital of Buffalo and Hospice Buffalo. After moving to Los Angeles, she worked as an Executive Leadership Consultant serving clients such as The University of Southern California, UCLA, Stanford University and the University of Maryland Health System. She worked for many years as the Director of Education and Organizational Development at The California Institute of Technology.*

*She received her undergraduate education at the University at Buffalo and her graduate degree from the University of Notre Dame. She received the prestigious Educational Leadership Certification from Harvard University. She currently serves as the President of Western New York University of Notre Dame Alumni Board.*

***Jennifer Ellison Kramer, M.A.** Jennifer has an M.A. in Special Education from the University of New Mexico and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Puget Sound. She works knowing everyone can learn, grow, and enjoy the effort. Authentic interest is the bedrock of motivation. Cultivating it is Jennifer's mission. High school students are expected to synthesize and integrate a diverse range of learning into their lives. While many students become energized and gain confidence as they sail through high school, others struggle to maintain passing grades and integrate the material. How do these students find their unique strengths, skills, and talents when they're not labeled as “gifted”?*



*When students are given an opportunity to reflect on what does and doesn't work for them at school, they remember who they are and can uncover their unique gifts, passions, and learning styles. Self-exploration is a true source of motivation to focus and improve*

performance and attitude. Homework no longer is seen as just a chore, but becomes a service the student renders to herself. Students recognize and enjoy their own unique approaches to learning while managing academic stress. When educational pursuits become more about what “feels good” as authentic work to the student, it becomes clear how her education connects her to her city, neighborhood, family, and friends.

**Jeff Mayer** is a graduate of Villanova University, where he discerned his vocation to teach. After teaching in the secondary school system of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, he returned "home" to Villanova to complete his M.A. in Theology. Since 2011, he has been a member of the Theology Department of Merion Mercy Academy in Merion Station, PA and chair of the department since 2014. Currently pursuing his PhD in Theology from Villanova, with a focus on spiritualities of justice and peacemaking in the mission integration of Catholic educational institutions, his academic interests intersect with his role as Service Immersion and Justice Coordinator at Merion. When not in school, he enjoys traveling, amateur music collaboration and life with family and friends in the Philly area.



**Maria Mutidjo** has been a teacher for 14 years. She obtained her Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of the West Indies and later pursued her Masters in Educational Leadership and Management at the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba, Australia. She worked at Ardenne High School in Kingston and Fuse High School in Osaka, Japan before joining Convent of Mercy Academy, 'Alpha' in 2009. Maria teaches Language Arts and is currently the Academic Dean. She believes wholeheartedly in the power of education to transform individuals and communities and is passionate about working to promote the mission of Mercy at the Academy.

4:30 “Leadership in Mercy-Personal/Communal Call and Mission” presented by Anne Knapke, Principal, Gwynedd Mercy Academy Elementary, Spring House, PA. Anne will share her personal journey in becoming a Mercy administrator and will emphasize the laity’s role in continuing Catherine’s mission, calling each person to leadership.

**Anne Knapke** is the Principal of Gwynedd-Mercy Academy Elementary (K-8) in Spring House, PA. She joined GMA in 2016 after serving 18 years at a Catholic school in Greensboro, North Carolina. Over the past two years, Anne has immersed herself in the GMA community and has embraced what it truly means to be a Mercy educator as she serves as the first lay leader of GMA’s 155 year history. Anne earned her Master of School Administration Degree from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro and her Bachelor of Science in Education Degree from Miami University (OH). She and her husband have two daughters who attend GMA and Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School.



5:30 Manager’s Reception

6:00 Dinner



7:15 Presentation: “What Then Must We Do? (Luke 3:10) Blessings and Burdens of Leadership Today: Responding to the Calls of Our Time” Presented by Sr. Anne Marie Miller of the Institute Leadership Team. The scriptural crowds struggle to grasp the implications of a new life vision. 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. As another era in Mercy education unfolds, *what must we do* as Catholic Mercy educators who carry the burden and blessing of the call to leadership in the time that is ours?



***Sister Anne Marie Miller** formerly served on the West Midwest Community Leadership Team. Prior to this ministry, Anne Marie spent 26 years as an educator and administrator in northern California. These roles included teacher and principal at St. Joseph Parish School in Auburn, teacher at Holy Cross School in West Sacramento, principal at Mt. St. Mary Academy in Grass Valley, and associate director of Corporate Work Study at Cristo Rey High School in Sacramento. A native of Dublin, Ireland, Anne Marie holds a B.A. in Diversified Liberal Arts from St. Mary’s College and an M.A. in Religious Education from Loyola University. She has been a Sister of Mercy for 31 years.*

8:30 Evening Prayer

**Tuesday, July 24, 2018**

8:00 Breakfast

8:45 Welcome, Prayer and Virtual Tour of Mercy International in Dublin, Ireland given by Sr. Mary Reynolds and Sr. Anna Nichols

10:45 Break

11:15 Small group reflection and large group sharing: “In My School-In Our Schools-Committed to Mercy, I will....”

12:15 Closing Prayer

12:30 Adjournment and Boxed Lunches

1:00-3:00 Meeting of New Leader Cohort

