



NEW LEADER ORIENTATION 2021-2022



Mercy Education
Educación de la Misericordia

SCHEDULE

Each topic is offered twice, except for the Introductions. When you register, you will pick the date that works best with your calendar. All sessions are offered via Zoom. You will receive connection instructions and any supporting materials once you register.

Topic	Date	Time
**Introductions: New Administrators Mercy Education Staff	August 11, 2021	1-2 pm ET
Strategic Planning Denise Marbach	September 20, 2021 September 22, 2021	11-12:30 pm ET 6-7:30 pm ET
Evaluating for Mission Patricia Smith, RSM, and Kristi Wessling	November 15, 2021 November 17, 2021	11-12:30 pm ET 6-7:30 pm ET
Charism and Mission of Catherine McAuley Sheila Carney, RSM	January 10, 2022 January 12, 2022	11-12:30 pm ET 6-7:30 pm ET
Best Board Practices Pat Coward, RSM	February 14, 2022 February 16, 2022	11-12:30 pm ET 6-7:30 pm ET
Catholic Identity in the Mercy Tradition Patricia Talone, RSM	April 4, 2022 April 6, 2022	11-12:30 pm ET 6-7:30 pm ET

**This session is for new administrators only.

REGISTER NOW





TOPICS

Strategic Planning

This session will introduce the essential elements of a strategic plan. Participants will learn about the process of getting stakeholders involved in strategic planning, identifying the critical needs of the ministry, designing strategic intents to address the needs and implementing a timeline to address the strategic intents.

Evaluating for Mission

This presentation will offer best practices on completing board, administrator and staff evaluations. It will emphasize: annual process, clear and rigorous expectations, multiple measures, multiple ratings, regular feedback and significance.

Charism and Mission of Catherine McAuley

This presentation will describe the charism as a gift of God that characterized and enabled Catherine McAuley's life and work. The presentation will address why Catherine McAuley might be appealing to all Mercy educators and what Catherine's attitudes and actions would be with respect to Mercy education today.

Best Board Practices and Governance

This presentation will cover topics including the non-profit corporation and its uses, the legal relationship of schools to the Sisters of Mercy, the legal responsibilities of the board of a nonprofit corporation and the art of being a good board member.

Catholic Identity in the Mercy Tradition

Recognizing how many timely and critical issues have challenged Mercy ministries, this session will focus on the Catholic Identity Statement and its impact on decision-making in our schools. Leaders will be guided and encouraged to participate in courageous conversations rooted in the foundations of Gospel values, Catholic Social Teaching, Catholic Moral Teaching and Mercy documents, especially *Catholic Identity in the Mercy Tradition*.

SPEAKERS



During her 52 years as a Sister of Mercy, **Sister Sheila Carney, RSM**, has served her community and the local and national church in a wide variety of positions from teaching in elementary school to serving in regional and national leadership. She is currently on the staff of Carlow University, her alma mater, as Special Assistant to the President for Mercy Heritage, a position she has held for 11 years. Currently, she is a board member of McAuley Ministries and of Mercy International Association. She serves as Vice Postulator for the Cause for the Canonization of Catherine McAuley. Sister Sheila is an internationally known speaker and retreat director and the co-author of *Praying with Catherine McAuley*.



Sister Pat Coward, RSM, earned her undergrad degree in Physical Education and Health from Salisbury State College, MD, and a Masters degree in School Administration from the University of Dayton. She served as an educator in Mercy schools in Mobile, AL, Baltimore, MD, Macon GA, and Savannah, GA. She served as the Assistant Principal at St. Vincent's Academy, Savannah, GA. from 1991- 2012. 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.



Denise Marbarch has a 50-year history with Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School. She has been a student, alumna, parent of two Gwynedd graduates, and Board of Trustees Chair. Denise started her president role at Gwynedd in July of 2017. Since then, Gwynedd has developed and executed on their strategic plan, "She is the Future." Enrollment, fundraising and new academic programs have reached new goals and milestones over the last few years. Denise was a partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) where she worked for 38 years. A certified public accountant, she was the first woman partner at Coopers & Lybrand (C&L) Philadelphia's office in its 90-year history. She retired from the PwC in June 2015.

SPEAKERS



Sister Patricia Smith, RSM, has spent the last 10 years serving as a leadership team member for the Mid-Atlantic Community. Prior to her time in leadership Sister Pat served 20 years as the head of school for Waldron Mercy Academy. Her years at Waldron provided an opportunity to work with a Board of Trustees and understand better the importance of Board Formation. While serving on Community Leadership Sister Pat was a member of the Institute Ministry Group and along with three other leaders developed the Mercy Education System of the Americas. She has served as a Mercy Education board member for the last four years.



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.



A Mercy High School alumna from the class of 1988, **Kristi Wessling** joined the faculty of Mercy in 1995 as a math and business teacher. She holds degrees from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Creighton University. She spent 19 years as a full-time classroom teacher and loved moderating Mercy's student council, helping young women grow in their leadership skills and in their journey to become Women of Mercy. In 2014, she was named Mercy's Assistant Principal of Academics, and assumed the role of Principal in 2018. Kristi is the proud mother of two Mercy alumnae and a current Mercy senior, as well as the ecstatic grandmother of Charlotte, future member of the Mercy class of 2037.