



**NEW LEADER
ORIENTATION
2022-2023**



Mercy Education
Educación de la Misericordia

SCHEDULE

Welcome to Mercy Education's New Leader Orientation Program! This program details the offerings for the 2022-2023 academic year.

For topics with two offerings, you may choose the date and time slot that works best for your schedule when you register. Some topics are offered only once due to scheduling constraints. 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](#).

Topic	Date	Time
*Introductions for New Administrators <i>Mercy Education Staff</i>	Wednesday, August 31, 2022	1-2 pm ET
Servant Leadership <i>Jason Moore</i>	Monday, September 12, 2022	11-12:30 pm ET 6-7:30 pm ET
Building a Bridge: Catholic Schools' Relationship with the Church <i>Fr. James Martin, SJ</i>	Tuesday, October 25, 2022	8-9:30 pm ET
Grace Under Fire: Crisis Communications <i>Debbi Della Porta</i>	Monday, December 5, 2022 Wednesday, December 7, 2022	11-12:30 pm ET 6-7:30 pm ET
Overview of the Human Resources Function <i>Anne Searl</i>	Monday, February 6, 2023 Wednesday, February 8, 2023	11-12:30 pm ET 6-7:30 pm ET
Habits of the Mind and Heart for Ethical Decision-Making <i>Sr. Sue Sanders, RSM</i>	Monday, March 27 Wednesday, March 29	11-12:30 pm ET 6-7:30 pm ET

*This session is for new administrators only.



TOPICS

Servant Leadership

What does it mean to be a servant leader? 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 humility, hospitality, empathy, listening, healing, stewardship and more.

Building a Bridge: Catholic Schools' Relationship with the Church

Mercy schools are rooted in the Gospel through the Mercy charism and the Catholic faith. This presentation will look at what it means to be a Mercy Catholic school at a time when many students feel marginalized. It will cover practical issues that may arise from a school's relationship to the Church as well as ways to navigate those challenges.

Grace Under Fire: Crisis Communications

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.

Overview of the Human Resources Function

This presentation will look at the human resources function through the lens of Mercy. It will cover topics including definitions and best practices in recruitment, selection, job analysis and design, performance management, training and development, employee relations, benefits, compensation, and payroll.

Habits of the Mind and Heart for Ethical Decision-Making

This presentation provides several approaches to help leaders identify, think about, reflect on, and discern their ways through the ethical dilemmas that will inevitably confront them during their service. Rather than an academic review of the philosophical "all-stars," this presentation suggests some things trustees can do daily to develop the habits of mind and heart necessary for living an integrated, ethical life when truth telling is difficult, goods compete, and the "common good" is not so obvious.

SPEAKERS



Debbi Della Porta serves as the external director of communications for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She provides overall leadership for communications with external publics, including public relations, marketing, advertising, and social media. Prior to this position, she was the director of communications for Sisters of Mercy in Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the New York Area for 16 years. During crises, Debbi serves as the primary media contact for the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy. She has handled the communications regarding church issues such as the Apostolic Visit and same sex marriage, the closing of three schools, potential strikes, organizational changes and controversial sales of properties.



Fr. James Martin, SJ, is a Jesuit priest, editor at large of *America* magazine and consultant to the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication. He is the author of several New York Times bestsellers, including most recently *Learning to Pray*.



Jason Moore grew up on the South Shore of Boston and is a beneficiary of Catholic education from first grade through his advanced degree in Theology and Pastoral Ministry from Saint Michael's College in Vermont. Jason has been honored and privileged to serve Catholic elementary, secondary and higher education institutions for 21 years of his career. Jason and his wife have been Mercy Associates for over two decades and they have two sons, one of whom is a third-grader at Mater Christi School in Burlington, Vermont where Jason serves as the Assistant Head of School.

SPEAKERS



Susan Sanders, RSM, PhD, currently serves as an Institute Minister for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. A native Chicagoan, Sue moved to Omaha when she was elected to the leadership team of the former West Midwest Community, serving as first as team member and later as president. Before leadership, Sue served in a variety of senior administrative positions at Saint Xavier University, Chicago, and was a tenured associate professor of public policy at DePaul University's graduate School of Public Services. She has also served on or chaired the boards of three Mercy colleges/universities; Mother McAuley High School, Chicago, and several health care organizations and social service providers.



Anne Searl is the Senior Director of Human Resources for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Anne began her career in the field of social work, working as a social worker for the state of Delaware in the Department of Health and Human Services and the administrative office of the courts. Anne is a Mercy Associate and has volunteered at various organizations during her career, most notably as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused children through the Delaware County CASA chapter. She currently serves on their advisory board. She also serves as the Co-founder and Director of Chester Heights Neighbors' Alliance and on the Board of Directors of The Concept School in Westtown, PA.

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