



Mercy Education
Educación de la Misericordia

CONFERENCE OF MERCY STUDENT LEADERS

June 18-21, 2023 | Salve Regina University | Newport, Rhode Island



CONFERENCE OF MERCY STUDENT LEADERS

PROGRAM GOALS

- ▶ Student leaders will grow in their understanding of the mission of Mercy and Catherine McAuley.
- ▶ They will engage with Mercy Critical Concerns with a special focus on Care for Earth by planning advocacy projects for their school communities and participating in service learning.
- ▶ They will enhance individual leadership skills and goals through various exercises and activities.

Who: The conference invites representative student leaders from various school ministries (i.e. student council/student government, ministry team, community service corps leaders, those leading environmental efforts) and others whom the school feels will most benefit from our program. We recommend sending rising juniors and/or seniors. Number of representatives per school: 6 students maximum.

When: Sunday afternoon, June 18 - Wednesday morning, June 21, 2023.

Where: Salve Regina University, 100 Ochre Point Avenue; Newport, Rhode Island 02840 USA. La universidad es una institución patrocinada por las Hermanas de la Misericordia. View [directions](#) and [campus map](#).

Tuition: \$350.00 per student, includes all on-site costs including room and board and activities. This fee does not include travel. No fee required for chaperones (1 to 2 maximum are required for each school group).



Salve Regina University's beloved statue of Catherine McAuley is a daily reminder of the Mercy legacy.





CONFERENCE OF MERCY STUDENT LEADERS

Accommodations: Accommodations for students and chaperones will be provided at Salve Regina University. Students and chaperones will stay in campus dormitory on campus, with chaperones in single rooms and students in shared suites. A linen package with sheets and towels is included. More information will be provided after registration.

Air Travel: Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport, approximately 45 minutes from Salve Regina University (30 miles).

Parking: Chaperones will receive parking information after registration.

Student Presentations on Critical Concerns: We are requesting that each school's student delegation prepare a 10-15 minute presentation that shares how your school lives out all the Mercy Critical Concerns, especially Earth. The presentation can also include significant Mercy traditions that you celebrate at your school.

"Through this conference, everyone revealed such gifts and helped each other in a way that would not have been possible if it weren't for the grace of God and Catherine McAuley's wish."

"I made friends for life."





CONFERENCE OF MERCY STUDENT LEADERS

Please complete registration by June 1, 2023:

<https://bit.ly/Mercy-CMSL>

Questions? Contact: Kimberly Baxter,

Associate Director for Programs and Services

PACKING CHECKLIST



Essentials

- License or school identification card
- Sunscreen
- Reusable water bottle
- Toiletries
- Medical insurance card (in case of emergency)
- Personal prescription(s), if applicable
- Extra pillow if desired
- Extra towel if desired

Clothing

- Comfortable, lightweight clothing - shorts, t-shirts, etc. Please be mindful of packing appropriate attire, i.e. no revealing shorts or tops, no clothing with inappropriate language or images.
- One pair of jeans or pants
- Sweatshirt and/or jacket
- Swimsuit
- Sneakers
- Flip-flops

Other Items

- Journal or notebook
- School presentation (See page 3)
- A positive attitude!

Please note: We recommend leaving valuables, including school rings, at home so they are not misplaced.





CONFERENCE OF MERCY STUDENT LEADERS

AGENDA

Sunday, June 18, 2023

3:00-5:00 pm	Registration and check-in to residence hall Participants are encouraged to arrive no later than 4:00 pm
5:00 pm	Welcome and introductions
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Mission and Charism of Catherine McAuley Film on Catherine McAuley, <i>In God Alone</i> , followed by a presentation on Catherine McAuley and the Mercy charism by Sr. Rayleen Giannotti
8:00 pm	Icebreakers
9:30 pm	School Presentations on Mercy Critical Concerns
11:00 pm	Lights out

Monday, June 19, 2023

8:00-9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Prayer School Presentations on Mercy Critical Concerns
10:00 am	Personality Inventory Exercises and Leadership Development Activities By Kimberly Baxter and Eleasha Tarplin
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	“Take Action! How YOU Can Raise Your Voice to Bring About Societal Change!” By Marianne Comfort





CONFERENCE OF MERCY STUDENT LEADERS

AGENDA

2:00-5:00 pm	Service and Advocacy Experience
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Service Learning Reflection By Sr. Mary Pendergast, RSM
8:00 pm	Leadership/Team Building Activities- “Tower Building” By Kimberly Baxter and Eleasha Tarplin
9:00 pm	School Presentations on Mercy Critical Concerns
10:00 pm	Snacks and Social Time
11:00 pm	Lights out

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

8:00-9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Prayer School Presentations on Mercy Critical Concerns
10:00 am	Mercy Advocacy Work on Care for Earth By Sr. Mary Pendergast, RSM, and Angie McParland
11:15 am	Mercy Critical Concern for Earth By Sr. Mary Pendergast, RSM, and Angie McParland
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Mercy Volunteer Corps By Julia Morisi
1:45 pm	Teamwork: Planning School Advocacy Project on Mercy Critical Concern for Earth





CONFERENCE OF MERCY STUDENT LEADERS

AGENDA

3:30 pm	Sharing of Advocacy Projects
5:30 pm	Night Out in Newport, RI
10:00 pm	Social Time
11:00 pm	Lights out

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

7:30-8:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am	Campus Tour
10:00 am	Mass in University Chapel Commissioning Ceremony Group Picture
11:00 am	Departure



Salve Regina University's stunning seaside campus is waiting to greet our young Mercy leaders!



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PRESENTERS



Kimberly Baxter serves as the Associate Director for Programs and Services for Mercy Education. Prior to this role, Kim was a Social Studies teacher, department chair, theater director and service coordinator at Merion Mercy Academy. Kim has a BA and MA in History from Providence College and Villanova University respectively, and an M. Ed from Cabrini University in School Administration. She is currently working on her doctorate in Educational Leadership at Gwynedd Mercy University. In her time away from work, Kim enjoys gardening, photography, being by the ocean, traveling and taking long walks with her dog, Belle.



Marianne Comfort is justice coordinator for Earth, anti-racism and women for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She serves on the steering committee of the Catholic Climate Covenant and the board of the Laudato Si Movement (formerly known as the Global Catholic Climate Movement). She also is a member of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.'s Care for Creation Committee.



Sr. Rayleen Giannotti, RSM, is currently serving as Principal of Mercymount Country Day School in Cumberland, RI. Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, Rayleen holds a B.A. in Politics from Salve Regina University, an M.Ed. from Boston College, and an MA in Health Policy and Bioethics from Loyola University. She completed some additional study of administration in education at Creighton University while completing an administrative internship at Mercy High School in Omaha, Nebraska. In addition to her ministry in education, Rayleen served in healthcare ministry, incorporation ministry for the Sisters of Mercy, and spiritual accompaniment. She continues to engage in the ministry of spiritual accompaniment and retreat ministry as time permits.



Angela Howard-McParland has served on the Mercy Justice Team since 2021. She works to support sisters, associates, and ministries in the northeastern United States around advocacy and the Critical Concerns. Prior to joining Mercy, she worked in university chaplaincy at Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design, and Bentley University for 12 years as well as serving in high school campus ministry and parishes in Rhode Island and Nashville, Tennessee. She holds a Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt University and a Bachelor's degree from Centre College in Kentucky. She is based in Rhode Island and has three children who still get excited to make their own signs for protests and rallies.





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Julia Morisi is a recent member of the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship (MELF). During her time in MELF, she completed a project on women's religious leadership. After graduating from Salve Regina University, Julia completed a year of service with Mercy Volunteer Corps. She then earned a Master's degree in Theological Studies and a certificate in Religion and Conflict Transformation from Boston University. Currently, Julia works at Salve Regina University.



Sr. Mary Pendergast, RSM, grew up in Newport, Rhode Island. She has a B.A. in Sociology and Special Education from Salve Regina University; an M. Ed. from Rhode Island College; and a Montessori Primary Diploma from St. Nicholas Training Center. She studied Earth Literacy at the Christine Center for Meditation in Wisconsin. Sr. Mary was an educator of young children for 38 years. As the Director of Ecology for the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community, Mary was involved in conserving the sisters' land in Cumberland. Currently she works with several local organizations whose missions are aligned with the Critical Concerns.



Mrs. Eleasha Tarplin is the Dean of Student Affairs at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, Michigan. In this role, one of Mrs. Tarplin's major responsibilities is moderating Student Government, which has afforded her the opportunity to conduct numerous leadership workshops over the years. Mrs. Tarplin has a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio; a Secondary Teaching Certification in Mathematics and Business; and a Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics from the University of Detroit Mercy in Detroit, Michigan. She lives in Milford, Michigan, with her husband, and has 3 adult children, a daughter and two sons.

"It was an amazing experience that allowed me to get to know many people from different parts of the world. It was great to see how Mercy connects us all for the best."

