



NEW LEADER ORIENTATION 2023-2024



Mercy Education
Educación de la Misericordia

SCHEDULE

Welcome to Mercy Education's New Leader Orientation Program! This program details the offerings for the 2023-2024 academic year.

You may choose the date and time slot that works best for your schedule when you register. 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
Charism and Mission of Catherine McAuley <i>Sandy Flaherty and Angie Simonetti</i>	Tuesday, August 29, 2023	11:30 am - 1 pm ET 6 - 7:30 pm ET
Catholic Identity Statement <i>Sr. Sue Gallagher, RSM</i>	Wednesday, November 8, 2023	11 am - 12:30 pm ET 6 - 7:30 pm ET
Best Board Practices and Governance <i>Carole Pfeffer</i>	Tuesday, January 9, 2024 Wednesday, January 10, 2024	11-12:30 pm ET 6-7:30 pm ET
Evaluating for Mission <i>Jack Peterson</i>	Tuesday, March 5, 2024	6 - 7:30 pm ET* <i>only one session</i>
Strategic Planning <i>Colleen Bonar</i>	Tuesday, April 16, 2024	11 am - 12:30 pm ET 6 - 7:30 pm ET

REGISTER NOW





TOPICS

Charism and Mission of Catherine McAuley

This presentation will describe the Mercy charism as a gift of God that enlivened and enabled Catherine McAuley's life and work. It will address the ministry and leadership of Catherine McAuley and its implications for our schools. Additionally, it will provide practical ideas for implementing the Mercy mission into our school communities.

Catholic Identity Statement

Given the current context of Mercy in our world and the church, leaders in Mercy schools can expect to be engaged in critical issues. In this session we will focus on our rootedness in the Gospel, Catholic Social Teaching, and Mercy documents including our *Catholic Identity in the Mercy Tradition*. Through participation in this session we can engage the support and challenge these resources provide and the encouragement we are to one another.

Best Board Practices and Governance

This presentation will cover topics including the nonprofit 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.

Evaluating for Mission

This session will focus on the importance of mission-based performance evaluations at all levels of the Mercy school, from board and administration to faculty and non-certificated staff, and provide some best practices important for the Mercy context. Participants will reflect on the challenge of involving all personnel in sustaining the Mercy mission yet respecting the unique ways the Holy Spirit works with each individual.

Learning to Love Strategic Planning

Do you have a strategic plan? Is it covered with dust in an over-sized binder on top of your filing cabinet? How do you propel your strategic plan from your bottom drawer to infuse it into the life of your school? The goal of our conversation is to explore the what, why, when, how, failures and successes, that surround the strategic planning process. The goal is that you conclude that the strategic planning process can galvanize your school community to engage together in system-wide school improvement.

SPEAKERS



Colleen Bonar Colleen is a veteran educator who has spent her career collaborating with students, teachers, administrators, and board members to support their learning goals. She spent over 40 years as a classroom English teacher, mentor teacher, and director of theater. She has also served as a curriculum coordinator, and in her role of educational consultant, has collaborated with numerous public-school boards of education to support them in articulating their district goals. She has also worked in schools to facilitate the strategic planning process, as well as guided the implementation of the plan. Colleen is a current member of the Mercy Education Board, where she continues to engage in working with others to support teaching and learning.



Sandy Flaherty is a former Sister of Mercy and currently a Mercy Associate. She has two Master's degrees in Theology, one in Theological Studies and the other in Pastoral Leadership. She is the author of *A Reflection of Mercy: Prayer Services, Liturgies and Resources for Mercy School Communities* and *Why Choose Catholic Education: A Guide for Parents*, NCEA © 2019. Sandy is currently the Director of Mission and Catholic Identity and a Religious Studies Teacher at Mercy High School in Burlingame, California.



Sister Sue Gallagher, RSM, has been a member of the Sisters of Mercy since 1965 and the Institute Justice Team since 2017. She received a B.S. in Elementary Education from Gwynedd-Mercy College (now University), an M.S. in Educational Leadership from University of Dayton, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Loyola University, Chicago. Most of her ministry has been in various educational institutions, spanning elementary school to post-secondary education. She believes that Mercy Education is a critical component and an important energy in the Community of Mercy!

SPEAKERS



Jack Peterson served as Vice President for Development and then President of Bellarmine Preparatory School in Tacoma, Washington, for 32 years. In 2013 he founded *Managing for Mission*, a consulting firm assisting Catholic schools across the United States and Canada with governance and administrative best practices.

Jack is ramping down his consulting practice to focus on being a grandpa but could not resist the opportunity to assist the schools of the Mercy Education System one more time.



Carol Pfeffer Ph.D., spent her career in Catholic education, starting as an English teacher and then Assistant Principal at Assumption High School in Louisville, KY — her alma mater. After leaving Assumption, she was an English professor at Bellarmine University in Louisville, the last ten of her thirty years there as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

She is finishing her ninth year on Assumption's Board of Directors, the last three of which she has served as Chair. She recently was appointed to Bellarmine's Board of Trustees.



Angie Simonetti is a former Sister of Mercy and currently the Director of Mercy Association in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has a Master's degree in Theological Studies with a concentration in Spirituality. She is currently the Director of Campus Ministry and the Religion Department Chair at Mercy High School, Burlingame. She has served on the Institute Ethics Committee for Mercy Education, which designed a process for ethical decision-making for Mercy schools, and served as a resource for Mercy Education and the Sisters of Mercy Institute Leadership Team.