

THE MERCY COMMUNITY WELCOMES OUR NEW LEADERSHIP

A Hundred Thousand Welcomes to the new leadership team for Mercy High School:

Ms. Mary Beth Lennon, President
Ms. Jeanne Blakeslee, Principal
Ms. Mary Ella Marion, Dean of Students

All three assume their new roles as of July 1, 2014, and each comes with sterling credentials and a contagious enthusiasm for Mercy High School.



Ms. Lennon, a 1985 Mercy graduate, was the Special Assistant to the president and communications director at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. She was part of the leadership team that opened Cristo Rey in 2007. She had served as director of corporate and foundation relations at Notre Dame of Maryland University and Brassica Protection Products, a biotech startup. Earlier in her career, Ms. Lennon had worked in Washington, DC at the International Center for Journalists and for the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Ms. Lennon earned her bachelor of arts degree in history at Notre Dame of Maryland University. She also holds a master of arts degree in Latin American history from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Ms. Lennon has served on numerous boards and is well-known in the Baltimore metropolitan community.

Ms. Blakeslee is a former faculty member (1976-1998) and comes to Mercy from St. Paul School for Girls. She is an award-winning educator and a long-time proponent of education for girls. While at Mercy, Ms. Blakeslee served as the director of college and career planning, coordinator of Parent Programs, and was a member of the thinking skills committee and task force on writing. She also taught social studies and religion. While at St. Paul's School for Girls, Ms. Blakeslee taught AP psychology and held a number of key leadership positions. She created and coordinated the AP Psychology Convention which was hosted annually by St. Paul's.



Ms. Blakeslee is a 2013 recipient of the Mary Margaret Moffett Memorial Teaching Excellence Award for outstanding high school teachers and has been described by Mercy's outgoing Interim President, Ms. Pegeen D'Agostino, as "completely committed to the education of adolescent girls."

Ms. Blakeslee received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Trinity College in Washington, DC and her master's degree in liberal education from St. John's College in Annapolis and a second master's degree in clinical psychology from Loyola University Maryland. She also has a graduate certificate in independent school leadership from the Johns Hopkins University.



Ms. Marion has been a teacher and coach at Mercy and most recently was Mercy's athletic director. She comes to her new position from years of experience working with adolescent girls. She has assisted with admissions and recruitment, mentored coaches and players, and helped to coordinate Field Day. She is well-respected among the high school athletic directors.

A strong advocate for girls' education, Ms. Marion has a clear vision of her new role. She has commented, "I want to help bring recognition to all students, to show each girl that she is an important part of this community. Every student need to know how much we value her and her contributions – whether in the arts, athletics, student government, or any other school activity. We want every young woman to find her special leadership qualities at Mercy."

Each member of this unique leadership team brings a commitment to the education of young women and a strong passion for the legacy of Catherine McAuley, the Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy who said, "No work of charity can be more productive of good to society than the careful instruction of women." Mercy's new leadership team is dedicated to fulfilling that mission.