



## Network for Mercy Education

May 31, 2005

Dear Colleagues,

As you know on April 23, 2005, the Network for Mercy Education represented by Board Co-chairs Sister Barbara Wheeley and Carolyn Jaworski, principal of Mercy High School in Omaha, Nebraska, and Director Sister Corinne Raven presented the sponsorship model for Mercy secondary and elementary education to the members of the ILC (the twenty-five regional community presidents and the Institute Leadership Team). There was much fruitful dialogue.

- ❑ The ILC did affirm the model recognizing that it is formally approved in action by each regional community leadership team. Implementation would be staggered as Areas form.
- ❑ Secondly the ILC affirmed the continuation of services by the Network for Mercy Education and the Network for Mercy Education Board. The Network Board will incorporate the word Services into their title and services will be used when describing Network for Mercy Education initiatives.
- ❑ Thirdly, there was significant conversation around the need to designate a group who would carry out the following responsibilities:
  1. Ensure services to the ministry of Mercy education and delegate to the Network Services Board the oversight for these services
  2. Appoint the members of the Network Services Board.
  3. Share mutual responsibility for implementation of the model of sponsorship for Mercy education through providing time at least once annually for dialogue, sharing, providing input into needs, implementation progress, learnings...
  4. Request an annual report on the ministry of Mercy secondary and elementary education – the ministry itself and the services provided and accessed – services to individual schools, in collaborative efforts, in shared programs.

We had shared with you that going into the ILC meeting two possibilities were on the table and in advance materials for dealing with these needs: giving responsibility to the ILC or to a suggested Education Commission. There were concerns regarding creating an Education Commission, as it was perceived as an unnecessary additional layer.

A new idea surfaced at the ILC meeting which appeared to have support. The suggestion was made that instead of either the ILC or an Education Commission, a representative of leadership from each Area or a designee be appointed to the Network Services Board. Board members who are representatives from the Area Leadership or their designees would have the responsibility for #1 and #2 as described above and share responsibility for #3 and #4 with the other members of the Network Services Board. This final item was not resolved at the meeting as time elapsed and this new

possibility needs to be drafted more fully and brought back to regional community leadership. The Network will work on this draft and a process for moving it forward for discussion and resolution.

The Network for Mercy Education also shared that the first annual Sponsorship Academy was in planning stages for Summer 2005 and members of the ILC would receive a draft of the program with an invitation for input and suggestions.

The Network for Mercy Education will continue to respond to requests for services locally, for a regional community or an Area and work with school and regional community leadership to implement the model of sponsorship for Mercy secondary and elementary schools. It will continue to provide for affiliate schools which share the charism, core values and tradition of Mercy.

We give thanks for this moment in time. The presentation at the ILC represented the hard work and sharing of ideas of so many over the past years. We look to the future mindful that all details are not resolved and implementation will ask for sharing of ideas, flexibility and growth, commitment and service, but we also look to the future grateful for the direction achieved.

If you have any questions or would like further clarification, please feel free to contact me or the President of your regional community.

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Director

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