



New Trustees Join Mercy Board

The Mercy College Board of Trustees has welcomed five members over the past year who will guide the College's financial and operational growth and inspire broader investment in its students, faculty and staff. These new members add a wealth of experience in the relevant fields of finance, education and accounting and include **Melissa Encarnacao Battista '13, M.B.A. '14, Michael Hayes '92, H.D. '21, Cindy Lopez '07, M.S. '08, M.S. '11, Susan Maklari and Marlene Melone Tutera CNR SAS '71.**

"The Board and I are excited to welcome our newest members and we look forward to our work together," said Joseph Gantz, chairman of Mercy College's Board of Trustees. "Their combined strengths and demonstrated commitment to furthering the College's mission signal a promising future for motivated students seeking to transform their lives through higher education."

Mercy College President Tim Hall noted, "Mercy College is fortunate to have such a dedicated and diverse group of trustees, and we are proud to welcome these new members, who include alumni. We deeply value their commitment to ensuring our students receive a high-quality education in a vibrant, personalized learning environment. We are grateful to all our trustees for investing their time and expertise to ensuring that Mercy College will continue to thrive in the years to come."

New members include:

Melissa Encarnacao Battista '13, M.B.A. '14

Corporate Vice President
and Senior HR Business
Partner, New York Life



Melissa Encarnacao Battista joined New York Life in 2021 as corporate vice president and senior HR business partner. Previously, she held various positions at Morgan Stanley, including vice president, VCS chief administrative officer within Virtual Client Solutions, an organization comprised of Morgan Stanley's leading financial advisors and service professionals. In a prior role at Credit Suisse, Battista was responsible for managing HR activities in compliance and regulatory affairs. She graduated cum laude from Mercy College in 2013 with a bachelor's degree and went on to receive a Master of Business Administration in HR Management/Finance in 2014. Her community work includes volunteering at Mercy College, White Plains Hospital, the American Heart Association/Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, and the ASPCA.

Michael F. Hayes '92, H.D. '21

Partner, PKF O'Connor
Davies, LLP



Michael Hayes is a certified public accountant in three states at PKF O'Connor Davies LLP. Previously, he was a partner at KPMG LLP. His deep industry knowledge includes working with hedge funds, private equity funds, and endowments in areas such as financial reporting, regulatory compliance, enterprise-wide risk, internal controls, taxes, valuation, and governance. He is a member of the Connecticut Hedge Fund Association and has led industry seminars aimed at helping investment leaders stay abreast of current accounting, tax, and regulatory issues. In prior roles, Hayes was a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP where he offered audit and business advice to investment funds and endowments for over 20 years. Hayes has served on many not-for-profit boards in the health and welfare, educational, and arts industries. A volunteer firefighter in his hometown of Katonah, New York, Hayes received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Mercy College in 1992. He was awarded an honorary degree from Mercy in 2021.

Cindy Lopez '07, M.S. '08, M.S. '11

Superintendent, Charter
School of Educational
Excellence



Cindy Lopez is superintendent at the Charter School of Educational Excellence (CSEE) in Yonkers, New York. She joined CSEE in 2007 as a fourth-grade teacher, becoming assistant principal in 2011, and principal in 2014. During her appointment to superintendent in 2019, Lopez collaborated with an amazing team to expand the CSEE K-8 program into the CSEE K-12 program with approximately 1,200 students. With the program expansion, Lopez worked on the finance and planning of the 76,000-square-foot building expansion. CSEE has been designated as a Reward School and Recognition School by the New York State Education Department for several years, and provides educational choices for families of all economic backgrounds in the surrounding communities. Prior to becoming a teacher, Lopez worked for 15 years as a health care administrator. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including Educator of the Year and the Entre Nosotras

Award for her commitment to improving the lives of children through education. Lopez is a three-time alumna of Mercy College, having earned a bachelor's degree in behavioral science in 2007, a Master of Science in Childhood Education in 2008, and a Master of Science in School District Leadership in 2011.

Susan Maklari

Senior Equity Research
Analyst, Goldman Sachs



Susan Maklari is a senior equity research analyst at Goldman Sachs, where she leads the top-ranked housing and home décor consumer goods team.

She collaborates globally with consumer and industrial analysts to develop insightful, accurate perspectives on sector trends that highlight companies with growth opportunities and challenges. Prior to joining Goldman Sachs, she was a director/senior equity research analyst at Credit Suisse. Prior to that, she held the position of equity research analyst at UBS for 17 years and served as a consultant to KPMG. Maklari has a bachelor's degree in finance from Georgetown University and a Master of Business Administration from Columbia University.

Marlene Melone Tutera CNR SAS '71

Retired Education
Professional



Marlene Melone Tutera spent 22 years teaching at the Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood Center in New Rochelle, New York. Prior to that, she served for 20 years as Director at Beach Point Day Camp in Mamaroneck, New York. Tutera graduated with honors from the College of New Rochelle (CNR) in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in art. At CNR, she served as Director of Housing and Director of Alumnae/i Relations. Tutera has twice served as president of the Alumnae/i Association and is past chair of the CNR Board of Trustees. She currently serves as a co-chair of the newly formed CNR Legacy Council. She has volunteered in the New Rochelle public education system and served on the boards of several community not-for-profits. She was honored at the Mercy College 2020 annual Trustees' Scholarship Dinner with the inaugural CNR Legacy Award.