

December 7, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mercy High School, Burlingame Receives Nearly \$5 Million From The Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation

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BURLINGAME, Calif. – Mercy High School, Burlingame is pleased to announce that it has received a generous grant from the The Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation in the amount of \$4.75 million – money that will be allocated for the school’s Capital Campaign for an Athletic and Student Life Center and a new endowed scholarship in the name of the Gellert Foundation.

“This is an incredible, life changing gift for Mercy High School in that it will open so many doors. The obvious answer is that a gym will allow our student athletes to finally have a home facility, which is a game-changer – there is a significant community aspect that it will bring to the school that we are so excited about,” said Mercy Head of School Natalie Cirigliano Brosnan '02, Ed.D. “It is incredibly meaningful that the foundation sees us as an institution because it shows that they see us – they see the value of our education, they see the mission of our education,” Cirigliano Brosnan said.

This grant is an enormous boost to Mercy’s capital campaign, Building the Dream, which aims to raise the funding necessary to construct an athletic and student center that will house a gymnasium, pool expansion and a student life space on campus. The Gellert Foundation has dedicated \$3.5 million to the capital campaign and another \$1.25 million to create a newly named endowment fund for tuition assistance.

Part of the mission of The Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation is to support Catholic schools. The foundation’s mission believes that investing in Catholic education “provides a critical path for the future success of our youth.” The foundation is a respected supporter of Catholic organizations focused on building a strong community.

Four members of The Gellert Foundation made a visit to Mercy to deliver the check. According to Gellert Foundation Board Member Bob Grassilli, this gift from the foundation will build on every girl’s experience at Mercy. “The main reason the investment will make such a big difference is because we are investing in a school that has existed for more than 90 years and has done a wonderful job of educating young women and preparing them for the world. Students at Mercy enter as girls and leave as confident, young women. The new gymnasium and student life center is just an add-on to this and will change the experience for these girls and we are happy to play a part in its progress,” Grassilli said.

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1931, Mercy High School, Burlingame is driven by a clear mission: to provide a rigorous, Catholic education that prepares young women to lead with compassion and strive for excellence. Since its founding, more than 8,000 young women have graduated from Mercy with a powerful sense of self that provides a foundation for effective action and leadership in their communities.

Mercy's vision of women's leadership is deeply informed by the experiences of our alumnae, who credit their Mercy education with giving them the capacities crucial to their success: intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and the self-confidence to step forward with conviction.

For more information about the grant, please contact Niki Nielsen at nnielsen@mercyhsb.com or 650-762-1199.

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