



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Contact: Caroline Ocampo (cocampo@mercyhsb.com)**

### **In honor of Women's History Month, Mercy High School Announces**

**It's New Pathways Program:** Biotechnology, Creative Arts and Design, Global Scholars, Engineering, Leadership Education and Development, and Women's Studies

***Mercy High School has launched a new Pathways Program that will give students unique learning and leadership opportunities that will support them to thrive as they develop into future leaders, innovators, and changemakers in a workforce that men have traditionally dominated.***

The new Pathways Program allows students to dive deeper into one of six pathways: Biotechnology, Creative Arts and Design, Global Scholars, Engineering, Leadership Education and Development, and Women's Studies. "We've created Pathways to support young women who want in-depth study in various fields that have been traditionally dominated and influenced by men," said Head of School Natalie Cirigliano Brosnan '02.

Data speaks to the importance of bringing focused opportunities for our students to gain their confidence and voices in underrepresented fields: only 23% of CEOs at biotechnology companies are women; just 8% of Fortune 500 companies have female CEOs; only 29% of artistic directors from founding to present have been women in the largest 50 U.S. ballet companies; engineering is the most male-dominated field in STEM with only 13% of women making up the workplace; three of the world's most-visited museums, the British Museum (est. 1753), the Louvre (est. 1793), and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (est. 1870), have never had female directors.

“One of the greatest skills we can develop in our students is the ability to recognize and overcome obstacles to them achieving leadership positions in their professional and personal lives. Our LEAD Pathway program will provide our girls an opportunity to take theoretical concepts on leadership and personal development into leadership in action,” said Jennifer Clifford, Assistant Head of School for Student Life.

Each Pathway is uniquely developed to engage students through curriculum, leadership, co-curricular activities, capstone projects, and mentorship opportunities. This school year, students can apply to be part of the **Biotechnology, Global Scholars, and Leadership Education and Development Pathways**. Assistant Head of School for Academics Art Walker shared, "I believe that the new Global Scholars Pathways will accentuate what Mercy does well by providing unique opportunities to excel in a borderless world."

- **Biotechnology Program** introduces students to the field of biotechnology and provides tools to gain experience and confidence in their skills as they build resiliency in problem-solving. Biotechnology combines biology and technology. Modern biotechnology is a fast-evolving field that can be broken into five branches. The biotechnology industry spans from helping to fight hunger to saving energy to reduce our ecological footprint.
- **Global Scholars Program (GSP)** supports Mercy students with an interest in global affairs and prepares them for potential careers in international relations, global studies, or other interdisciplinary careers focusing on fundamental global citizenship per the Core Values of a Mercy Education. Students can earn the certificate with distinction by enrolling in Honors and AP courses.
- **Leadership Development and Education Program** supports Mercy students in gaining practical experience in critical areas of leadership. Students will gain leadership experience and education that will, in turn, support the development of their authentic voices and leadership styles.

This spring, students can apply to be part of our **Engineering, Creative Arts and Design, and Women’s Studies Pathways**, which will begin in Fall 2023. STEM Educator Dr. Patricia Bradley said, “As a teacher in the sciences and a parent of three Mercy alumnae, I am so excited that Mercy is bringing these programs to our community. I am especially encouraged by the addition of the Biotechnology and

Engineering components. All three of my daughters entered into careers in the sciences (Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Clinical Research) and had a strong beginning due to the opportunities they had at Mercy, but these new opportunities will progress our current programs even further. This will allow our students interested in STEM pathways to enter college even better prepared. In addition, the programs are more interdisciplinary within the sciences and technology and offer students a better opportunity to enter 21st century STEM careers.”

- **Engineering Program** introduces young women to the field of engineering and empowers them to find their confidence in this male-dominated industry. The engineering field has dramatically expanded over the past decades as it continues to evolve to meet the various needs of our world. As a result, today’s students have options to study areas ranging from Chemical Engineering and Materials Science Engineering to Aerospace Engineering and Marine Engineering. In addition, the innovations awaiting within the field of engineering are endless.
- **Creative Arts and Design Program** combines creativity, ideas, imagination, and self-expression to encourage young women to solve problems through various art forms, including art, drama, dance, painting, music, design, and graphic design. The Study of Creative Arts and Design is critical to the world as it supports the development of crucial life skills such as emotional intelligence, confidence, discipline, creativity, commitment, and problem-solving.
- **Women’s Studies Program** is an interdisciplinary study intended to educate students on the social roles and cultural issues affecting women through the lens of history, literature, psychology, and politics. In exploring the challenges that women have overcome and those they continue to face today, girls learn to find a voice in issues that relate to them. In knowing women’s achievements throughout history, girls develop a greater sense of what is possible in a world that has traditionally been dominated by men. Through the unique lens of women’s studies, girls gain confidence in issues that continue to affect them and their futures.

Mentorship is a vital component of the Pathways Program. Knowing that female mentors can significantly impact another woman's life, all Pathway students will be partnered with a mentor who is an alumnae or local community member within their chosen field of study. The mentoring program is designed to offer Mercy students the opportunity to learn first-hand about a career of interest, gain guidance on achieving it, support their career-specific skills and leadership development, and see first-hand

representation. In addition, through regular check-ins, mentors will help to introduce Mercy students to the workplace, support their networking in the Bay Area, and encourage them to pursue their interests.

At Mercy High School, students leave knowing they have already begun the networking process that is crucial to their career success. With advocates in the classroom and within the community, Mercy students gain confidence and practical experience that will carry them into their young adult lives.

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*\*High resolution photos available upon request.*