

Mary Kennedy Martuscelli '75

Where is your hometown? Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Southfield and attended St. Michael's.

Why did you choose Mercy?

When I went to visit Mercy I just fell in love with the school. I am the oldest 5 children with 3 younger sisters and a brother. Mercy really gave me a chance to grow. Going to an all-girls school, there are so many different leadership opportunities available.

What kind of activities were you involved in at Mercy?

I was involved in so many activities at Mercy but recall fondly participating in a group called Mercy MIME. It was a drama club and we would go out into area grade schools, many of them in low income neighborhoods, and perform short plays during the school day. I was also involved with the Debate Club and Powder Puff football.

Tell me about your educational background after leaving Mercy.

I received a bachelor's degree in finance from Michigan State University. After graduation I was employed in Humane Resources with the National Bank of Detroit (NBD), and it was during that time that I enrolled in the MBA program at Wayne State University in Finance and Human Resources Management.

Tell me about your current role with US Bank (and/or other projects or professional interests) and future career goals.

Originally employed by the National Bank of Detroit in human resources, I moved into commercial lending middle market lending in Detroit and also launched their small business program. In 1996 my husband Richard took a position with Dial Corporation in Arizona and I joined Bank One. 18 months later Bank One merged with First Chicago NBD. There I managed corporate banking in the western United States. First Chicago NBD merged with JP Morgan Chase in 2004, but said I wasn't interested in moving to New York where they were headquartered. For three years I commuted to New York during the week but ultimately decided I couldn't keep up that type of travel. I stayed with JP Morgan Chase but did elect to take a step back and headed up private banking in Arizona and was later named President of JP Morgan Chase for Arizona. US Bank recruited me and after 33 years with JP Morgan Chase I left to accept a role as the regional president of the Western U.S. for U.S. Bank. It's been great experience so far. I'm currently working on building out our wealth management program but am personally very focused on helping to prepare the next generation of women leaders within our company. My focus is on mentorship and honing leadership skills women need to succeed in top roles as they open up. Beyond that a group of local CEO women and I are getting ready to roll out a leadership mentoring program locally to ensure that women ready to step up into these top roles. I'm a firm believer that women need to help other women.

What has been your most rewarding professional, or personal, experience since leaving Mercy?

From a community perspective, for me probably the important volunteer work I did to help the city of Detroit through "Paint the Town" and being able to make a difference there. On the 2nd sat of August over 10,000 volunteers from metro Detroit would come together to paint and rehab more than 350 homes and/or schools in the city. It was rewarding to help to help teach some of those volunteers how to effectively take on leadership through the Paint the Town effort.

My most professionally rewarding experience thus far is simply having done well in the world of finance. Actually getting to the senior leadership level in banking, there's not a lot of women at this level. And feeling like I'm able to make a difference for women at this level is important.

What advice would you give to our current Mercy Girls?

If you're thinking about your whole life, making sure you're doing something that you're really passionate about. Try as many new things as possible, don't box yourself into one interest area. You may be interested in science for example, but try different things. Get to know people in different areas, talk with people in finance. Be sure to get involved in the community, and at the school. Those activities will help build your leadership skills which will help as you work with all different types of people in the working world. Getting along with your peers is critical, being a great team player is essential to being successful in life. You have to know how to collaborate.