



Virtual
**Women's
Leadership
Luncheon**

March 4, 2021



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

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Women's Leadership Luncheon

March 4, 2021

Welcome and Prayer

Sister Debra Marie Sciano, SSND

Provincial Leader, Central Pacific Province

Shalom Presentation

Tim Dewane

Director of Shalom

Office of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Introduction of Presenter

Sister Jan Gregorcich, SSND

Founder of Global Partners, Running Water

Luncheon Presentation

Dr. Marissa Jablonski, Ph.D.

Executive Director of the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin
"Be the Change: A Better Planet Starts With You"

Closing Remarks

Mary Kay Murray

Resource Development Director

Thank you to our committee members:

Mary Conarchy, SSND Associate

Laura Harvancik, SSND Associate

Sister Barb Linke, SSND

Barb Muth

Sister Patty Rass, SSND

Meet Our Speaker



Dr. Marissa Jablonski, Ph.D.
Executive Director of the Freshwater
Collaborative of Wisconsin

*“Be the Change: A Better Planet
Starts With You”*

Dr. Marissa Jablonski, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin, is an accomplished water engineer, environmental advisor and plastics-reduction expert who has worked in more than 45 countries. Her way of understanding and engaging in complex interactions between human beings and environmental systems, combined with her storytelling skills, make her a much sought-after consultant and speaker. Marissa has won awards and accolades from many organizations including the National Science Foundation, Philanthropic Education Organization and Mondialogo.

After earning a PhD in Environmental Engineering and serving as an instructor of Peacebuilding, Engineering and Physics at numerous institutions in Milwaukee, she moved to Washington D.C. to work in policy. During her time as a AAAS Science Technology and Policy Fellow at USAID, she was both a Public Diplomacy Fellow in the Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad and also an Environmental Advisor to the Office of Food For Peace. During this time, she was also asked by the U.S. Embassy of Thailand and the Phuket Hotels Association to serve as an Embassy Science Fellow to design and lead a five-point model to help reduce their single-use plastics by more than 6 million in 2018.

Marissa is a founding member and mentor to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee student chapter of Engineers Without Borders and advises on the design and implementation of projects in Guatemala. She also serves as International Coordinator of a Guatemalan-led NGO that builds infrastructure with indigenous communities to meet the needs of six groups involved in each project.

Marissa is an advocate for minorities and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields and served as coordinator of National Science Foundation’s FORTE program from 2009 through 2015. During that time, she also designed an internationally recognized project that engaged with informal dye industries in rural India to affordably clean their wastewater.

Milwaukee Catholic Home Women Honorees



There is no proper recognition that could do justice for the outstanding work of our talented clinical team at Milwaukee Catholic Home and the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Elm Grove during this past year. In our homes and in our workplaces, Covid-19 drastically changed many facets of our lives. Our clinical teams have consistently provided the very best physical and emotional caregiving in ever changing environments as our world learned more about this contagious and life-threatening virus.

On top of meeting the demands of those affected and keeping everyone safe, our caregivers became family and friends to those who were denied access to those they love through tight visitation restrictions. They stepped up to do whatever the situation required, in ways impossible to quantify.

Due to the intensely personal aspect of providing care to others, deep bonds form between residents and caregivers and between caregivers themselves. Teamwork is essential for success and leaders naturally emerge and become beacons to all. Today, we nominate not one singular woman who exemplifies strong leadership, but all of our women clinical caregivers who selfishly give of themselves so others are given the best medical, social and spiritual care on each step of their journey.

Thank you for attending the 2021 Virtual
Women's Leadership Luncheon.

All proceeds benefit the ministries of
the sisters who have devoted their lives
to creating positive, systemic change
throughout the world.


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