

FROM *Kathleen Brennan,*  
*Department of Mathematics Chairperson*



*IT'S NOT HARD TO BE PASSIONATE ABOUT  
FINANCIAL LITERACY, PARTICULARLY WHEN  
IT COMES TO WOMEN.*

Historically, women have sat on the sidelines regarding financial decisions, but since 9 out of 10 women eventually will take charge of their family's wealth, it's critical for our students to understand the basic concepts of saving and investing. I'm happy to say that Mount Saint Mary Academy has been at the forefront of a robust financial education program for girls for over 10 years, being recognized by the W!SE Foundation and NextGen Personal Finance for exceptional leadership in preparing young people to make intelligent financial decisions.

I'm thrilled that we have been able to expand and enhance our financial literacy program with a state-of-the-art Bloomberg Financial Markets Lab that features four Bloomberg Terminals and a flat-screen monitor. Students who enroll in our Business Analytics elective will be trained on the terminals and complete a self-paced online Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC) course that incorporates simulations and tutorials on economic indicators, exchange rates, equities, and fixed income markets. Students will also use the terminals to develop and manage their virtual investment portfolios when they participate in the Wharton School Investment competition in the fall and the Bloomberg Trading Challenge in the spring. Both the investment challenges and BMC certification expose our students to sophisticated financial concepts that can be an advantage when applying for internships.

The value of the Terminals extends well beyond the Business Analytics course. The Terminals allow our students to access data for research in their economics and statistics classes, and even gives our students the ability to hone their foreign language skills as they can use the terminals in eleven languages. Our Bloomberg initiative empowers our students by giving them the tools and confidence to take charge of their careers and financial futures. It's a win-win for our girls and Mount Saint Academy!