

# PAMELA ANTOINETTE, PH.D.

*Writer, Speaker, Inspirationist*



## ABOUT DR. PAMELA ANTOINETTE LARDE

### **Her Philosophy**

How do you find it within yourself to say, "It's my life, and I love it", and actually mean it? You master what it means to live your life in love. You come to a place where you fully and authentically embrace yourself, honor God, and treat others with dignity and respect.

When we have mastered love for self, God, and others, we begin living in the realm of our purpose. As a writer, Dr. Pamela is driven to inspire individuals to strive to this level of living so that each of us can take ownership of our lives and exude love with every breath and every step that we take. What an awesome world this would be!

*Rediscover love. Harness your strength. Embody your purpose.*

### **Her Experience**

Dr. Pamela has ten years of professional experience in the field of higher education and holds professional memberships with the National Association for College Admission Counseling, the Higher Education Consultants Association, the American College Personnel Association, and the National Association for Student Personnel Administrators. She holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism, a master's degree in College Student Affairs, and a Ph.D. in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service.

Her research examines self-determination, service member-reintegration, intimate relationships, and access to higher education for underrepresented populations, particularly first-generation students. She has presented her research at numerous national conferences over the past several years and has contributed a chapter to a book on first-generation students (2012), entitled *Research Studies in Higher Education: Educating Multicultural Students*. She is also releasing a motivational book entitled *Letters to the Broken-Hearted* during summer of 2012. Currently, she is an assistant professor of qualitative research and higher education at Mercer University.

### **Her Educational Journey**

Through her own experience as a young single mom who struggled to craft an educational plan for herself, Dr. Pamela discovered that there are many others who also desire a college education, but fall short simply because they do not know where to begin. While in pursuit of her undergraduate

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degree in journalism, she remained an active leader in no less than four student organizations. Through aggressive conversations and extensive research at the age of 20, she uncovered widely unknown resources such as free childcare and full financial support for single parents in pursuit of a college education. When she graduated, her son was only three years old and she became the first in her family to earn a college degree. Upon graduation, Pamela knew that her calling was to empower others by helping them also pursue a college education and the career of their dreams.

After receiving her bachelor's degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Dr. Pamela worked as a public relations coordinator for a major media company, but soon felt a strong calling to the field of education. She responded to the call by accepting a recruiting position in the admissions office of a college with alternative education degree programs and simultaneously enrolled in the College Student Affairs masters degree program at Azusa Pacific University in Southern California. The two years to follow truly honed not only her motivational speaking, counseling, and interpersonal skills, but also her understanding of the world of higher education.

After completing her master's degree, she decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Leadership at Cardinal Stritch University to better position herself to help develop leadership skills in others, particularly with the purpose of helping them live fulfilling lives. While still a student in the doctoral program, she launched, EmpowerMe! CollegePrep!, a personal consulting company dedicated to assisting individuals and their families with the pursuit of a college degree. She is also a certified coach, and has received training in suicide prevention and substance abuse counseling.

Dr. Pamela has received numerous awards for her efforts, including:

- Journalism Department Head Award for Leadership in Journalism (2000)
- Jesuit Association of Student Personnel Administrators - Ignatian Medal for an Outstanding New Professional (2005)
- Marquette University Business Plan Competition (EmpowerMe! CollegePrep) - Best Service Plan (2008)
- Marquette University Business Plan Competition (EmpowerMe! CollegePrep) - Best Live Presentation (2008)
- Wisconsin College Personnel Association - Awarded "Best in Show" for presentation at WCPA regional conference (2009)
- American College Personnel Association - Showcase Presenter at ACPA national conference (2010)

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