

Dr. Laurie Cannady



Dr. Laurie Cannady serves as an example of the way in which dedication, preparation, and hard work can change the course of one's life. Soon after graduating high school in Portsmouth, Virginia, Dr. Cannady enlisted in the United States Army. She traveled the world and received several promotions and awards for her service. Despite the pride that comes with serving one's country, Dr. Cannady's path hasn't always been easy. During her first year of service, she was the victim of sexual harassment. She soon became pregnant and suffered bouts of domestic violence at the hands of another soldier. Soon after, she became a single mother, struggling to maintain a balance between her responsibilities to the military and her responsibilities to her child. After six years, she completed her service in the Army and received an honorable discharge, later settling in Clarksville, TN.

Despite the difficulties associated with being a single parent in the military, Dr. Cannady utilized all of the tools she learned in the Army to further her education. She enrolled at Austin Peay State University and set in motion her pursuit for higher education. Working part-time jobs and financially surviving on her G.I. Bill, Dr. Cannady received her Bachelor of Arts degree in two years of study, graduating Magna Cum Laude. She earned her Master of Arts degree in one year of study, graduating with a 3.83 G.P.A., and she later completed her Doctorate of Philosophy at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in three years of study with a 4.0 G.P.A.

Since earning her Ph.D., Dr. Cannady has served Lock Haven University and its surrounding communities. She's worked with the Clinton County Veteran's Affairs Office and Lock Haven University Admissions office to help returning veterans transition from military life to life as full-time college students. She established Lyrical Speaking, a spoken word group that encourages students to craft, discuss, and perform original poetry. She serves as faculty advisor to several groups on campus, including the Distinguished Gentlemen, a minority group focused on encouraging leadership, and Diamonds in the Ruff, a multicultural dance group geared toward empowering young women through dance. She also served on the advisory board of the Haven Outreach Program for Empowerment (HOPE), educating women on issues of sexual harassment and domestic violence. She also co-chairs the Jersey Shore Area School District's Diversity Committee. In 2011, Dr. Cannady won the Woman of Distinction Award at Lock Haven University.

Dr. Cannady is currently an Associate Professor of English at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, with a specialty in African American women's literature. She is working on a memoir entitled Have a Little Piece of Me. At Lock Haven, Dr. Cannady spends much of her time encouraging students to realize their true potential and to demonstrate excellence inside and outside of the classroom. She is a consummate champion of women's issues, speaking out against sexual harassment, domestic violence, and sexual discrimination.

Dr. Cannady currently resides in Central Pennsylvania with her husband, Chico Cannady and their three children, Dereck, Tariq, and Sanaa.