

## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE INDOMITABLE LISA MARIE BLASCHKE: CHAMPION OF HEUTAGOGY (SELF-DETERMINED LEARNING)

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### ABSTRACT

This interview with Dr. Lisa Marie Blaschke traces the journey of a Wisconsin farm girl who first dreamed of becoming a journalist. Upon graduating with a technical writing degree in medicine, Blaschke eventually became a corporate manager of a technical firm which, in turn, led to a career as an educator and program manager in the field of distance education. Today, Blaschke balances a blended career in the corporate and academic worlds. During this candid interview, Blaschke discusses her educational and experiential background, as well as her interests, goals, accomplishments, challenges, and research in distance learning. Drawing from her observations and experiences in the corporate and academic fields, Blaschke identifies the value and power of learner agency in any learning environment. In this interview, she discusses this insight and how it has inspired her to champion the learning approach known as heutagogy (self-determined learning). She also reflects on changes in the field of distance learning over the span of her career, offers some pearls of wisdom, and then shares her current and future plans as she moves into semi-retirement. In documenting the trials and tribulations of her epic journey through corporate and academic life, this interview highlights how determination, resilience, tenacity, and grit have been integral to Blaschke attaining her goals and achieving her dreams.

**Keywords:** Distance education, heutagogy, hyflex learning, learner agency, Lisa Marie Blaschke, online learning, women researchers