

OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Sandra D. Smith

Dr. Sandra D. Smith stands out as a truly exceptional and well-kept secret, embodying a remarkable example of "Recovery" within contemporary society. With a Ph.D. earned through dedicated research on support services, her dissertation gained recognition through dual publications with UMI and the esteemed German Scholars Press. Dr. Smith holds certifications as a Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist, creator of the Certified Reentry Peer Specialist program, and a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor Intern.

Her journey of non-traditional recovery is a testament to resilience, overcoming childhood thoughts of abandonment, battling process addiction, and surviving incarceration at the formidable Rikers Island in New York City. Dr. Smith's professional experience includes roles such as Peer Programs Manager, Associate Director of a Recovery Community Center in Dallas, TX, and esteemed positions as University Dean and Associate Regional Dean.

In 2014, she captivated audiences with her published true life story, "Choices," later adapted into a Criminal Justice Workbook utilized in correctional facilities nationwide to ignite transformative recovery dialogues. A recent milestone in Dr. Smith's impactful career was the co-creation of the curriculum for Texas's inaugural Reentry Peer Specialist certification and training. Notably, she has trademarked the term "Thrauma®," a crucial element within the curriculum.

Her mission is to guide formerly incarcerated individuals as they navigate the challenging journey of reintegration into society. Through education, community engagement, and strategic initiatives, she strives to create a more inclusive and supportive environment, enabling every individual to thrive and contribute meaningfully to their communities.



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