



Exclusive interview with Andrea Breazeale

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ENT 601 Entrepreneurial Innovation

Interview Date: 25 January 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1



Picture provided by Facebook

Andrea was born and raised in Winston-Salem NC, she now resides in Raleigh. She was raised by two incredible loving and caring parents which was the source of her inspiration for higher education and life. The extremely talented HR advocate sits down with me on for a small insight in her history and future.

I can see by your post that you are getting your MS in Human Resources, why HR? I am a naturally inquisitive (nosey) person and working in HR allows you to know what's going on in the lives of employees ;) And with that inquisitive nature, I like to help people solve problems, I am a natural nurturer and helper, so HR is a good fit for me.

You have a unique last name, where does it come from? I am asked that question often. My last name is of French origin. From what I understand, there was a French slave owner in South Carolina (where my family originated) whose last name was Breazeale. After emancipation, the slaves took the last name of the owner. Even today there is a large family reunion in SC during which the Black and white Breazeales come together.

What are your goals within the next 2-5 years? My goal is to move into a leadership role in HR. My preference is to work in the non-profit world as an HR Director. I also hope to become an HR consultant and work with non-profits who do not usually have the resources to have a full-time HR person on staff.

What do you consider some of your greatest accomplishments so far in your lifetime? I am proud of what I have accomplished with my education. I have a BA from NC State University and an MBA from Appalachian State Univ. I will complete my MSHR this summer. I have 16 years of HR experience and during that time I have been able to mentor younger HR professionals and help them advance in the field. I do a lot of community service work with my Sorority, Zeta Phi Beta and work with young girls and seniors.

If you were the CEO of any company what company would it be? I don't think I would want to be a CEO unless it was my own company. However, I would love to lead the HR team for an organization like ASPCA, I love animals and this organization has a mission I can fully support.

Where have you traveled? I love to travel. Last year I went to Jamaica. I have been to the Bahamas, and visited 25 states here in the US. My dream vacation is to Tokyo, Japan. I have always been fascinated with the Asian culture. I even took 3 semesters of Japanese as an undergrad...don't remember much of it now!

What do you do on your free time? Community service work, movies, concerts (last year I saw Michael McDonald, Steely Dan, Boys II Men, and the year before Elton John) I love music.

What do you plan on doing with the knowledge from this class? I'm learning a lot about technology and it is a challenge for me, but I hope to use these skills as a consultant, I also have a business idea related to pets.

HR is enormous, it is everywhere in business and life, in your opinion what is the most important aspect of human resources? I think the most important aspect of HR is helping employees meet their career goals, keeping them engaged and focused on the mission of the organization. That in my opinion is the root of the HR function.

What are your ultimate goals in life? To be happy!