



Cynthia Pierce Liefeld, PhD (1998, Psychology in Education)

Dr. Liefeld, a psychologist and a writer, is an independent regional accreditation consultant ([higherconsulting.com](http://higherconsulting.com)) to colleges and universities. In her most recent past, she served as vice president for academic affairs at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh and previously at Point Park University (as the associate, and then interim, VPAA). Dr. Liefeld most recently facilitated the Art Institute's initial accreditation with the Middle States Commission, in addition to her other duties managing the curriculum, faculty, and budget for the 3000 students on campus and the nearly 10,000 students online. While at Point Park, Cynthia successfully directed the application for university status. In addition to serving as a reviewer on visiting teams for the Middle States Commission and working directly with the PA Department of Education, Cynthia's academic appointments led to her interest in external agencies' roles in higher education and to her current role as a consultant in regional accreditation.

Dr. Liefeld previously taught psychology and research methods courses at the University of Pittsburgh, Point Park University, and the Community College of Allegheny County. Her research interests included developmental psychology constructs related to adolescent mothers and their children, children with chronic illness, and pre-adolescents' reliance on scientific inquiry in problem-solving.

Dr. Liefeld is an active member of the Pittsburgh community, serving as president of Pitt's School of Education Alumni Society, and as the school representative to the larger University Alumni board. She holds a seat on the latter's Membership Committee.

Cynthia serves as the Treasurer of the Board of Directors for KidsVoice (an agency providing legal and wraparound services to the 4000 abused and/or neglected children in Allegheny county), as well as the chair of its Development Committee. In these roles, she is serving as the chair of the 5<sup>th</sup> Kitetails and Cocktails Gala in April (partnering with America Eagle) benefitting KidsVoice.

As a lifetime supporter and current board member of Planned Parenthood, Dr. Liefeld chairs the Board Development Committee and serves on the Executive Committee.

Dr. Liefeld also works with the Allegheny County District Attorney's office developing curriculum and lesson plans in crime scene investigation. Most recently, she served on the DA's organization committee for the PA Polar Plunge benefitting the Special Olympians in western Pennsylvania.

Cynthia is married to Paul Liefeld, MD, an orthopedic surgeon who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh's Medical School. The two of them raised four adults who are happily pursuing a range of careers.