



Pictured Above: Jolee Lilja, MA, Leadership Studies, Augsburg University and Dr. Lonnie Pederson, Univ. of Jamestown Graduate Center-Fargo, Director of Master of Arts in Leadership Program

## Leadership - A Mother/Daughter Conversation

Lion's Way would like you to meet our friends Jolee Lilja and Lonnie Pederson. These women have a lot in common. They both have personalities that brighten any room they enter, they both work in the Master of Arts in Leadership Programs at their respective institutions, they are both committed to growing and empowering more leaders in our region, and they happen to be mother and daughter.

### **What do you want people to know about Augsburg/University of Jamestown?**

*Jolee:* Diversity. Augsburg is among the most diverse campuses in the nation.

*Lonnie:* That we have a Fargo campus and a phenomenal MAL program attracting region-wide professionals.

### **What is the most challenging part of your job?**

*Jolee:* Continuing to brand and promote the program in creative ways within the region.

*Lonnie:* Heightening awareness of our presence in Fargo and the importance of further developing one's leadership practice through the Master of Arts in Leadership Program.

### **What advice did you get when it came to making your college/career decision?**

*Jolee:* "Stay close to home." – Dad "Choose a college with a foundation in faith." - Mom

*Lonnie:* "Let what you do be what you love" Rumi

### **You & your mom hold similar roles, do you bounce ideas off each other?**

*Jolee:* All the time! It's good for my mom to gain insight related to the history and evolution of Augsburg's program, at the same time it's been interesting to me to see the innovative ways the MAL program in Fargo is taking shape.

*Lonnie:* Constantly, she loves when I call her for advice! It's been so fun to share my call to vocation with Jolee.

### **Why choose the MAL program at Augsburg/University of Jamestown?**

*Jolee:* To *really* learn about yourself. You can't lead others if you don't know yourself.

*Lonnie:* It provides an opportunity for busy professionals to invest in themselves and their leadership practice ...from the inside out.

**Congratulations to Jolee & Lonnie on their most recent promotions to the titles of Mom and Grandma!**



*Jeff Conant & Kathy Soltess- Crown Trophy*

Walking into Crown Trophy on the west edge of downtown Fargo, you hear laughter and see a room full of smiles. Jeff Conant bought Crown Trophy back in 2015 after a long career in the education and technology fields. Talk to Jeff for just a short time, and you will know he is passionate about family, his faith and has a special place in his heart for military personnel. He & his wife Tammy have two sons who have both served in the military. His employees Kathy, Rose, Julie and Daniel are treated more like family than staff. Kathy, who has been with the shop for 25 years said, "I like what I do. I get to turn someone's idea into reality." Their customers are obviously happy too as reflected on the infamous "comment door" where thank you notes and kind sentiments are displayed proudly.

What do you love about your business?

- Seeing people get awarded and acknowledged for what they do
- We never say No, if you dream it, we will do everything in our power to create it
- We want everyone to feel welcome and at home in our shop. No matter if it's a big or small sale, we pride ourselves on treating all customers the same and building long-lasting relationships.

Where do you see the most growth potential?

- Businesses – we do so many cool new things, along with the classic products you associate with a trophy shop.

Coolest new product:

- Embroidered sports balls, fun gift to showcase an athletic career or as a traveling "trophy" for a sports fantasy league

Weirdest trophy you've been asked to make:

- The main component was a full-sized toilet. People get very creative!



To check out new ways to reward employees, promotional items for customers and all other award and trophy needs, please contact Jeff and his team at:  
Crown Trophy  
26 N University Dr  
Fargo, ND 58102  
(701) 365-8330

**"Never get too old to try something new."  
– Jeff Conant**