



## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**Dr. Peter H. Armacost**  
**President/Rector, Forman Christian College**  
**Lahore, Pakistan**  
**President-Emeritus, Eckerd College**  
**St. Petersburg, Florida, USA**

On June 8, 2002, Dr. Peter H. Armacost became President/Principal of Forman Christian College. Since that time, the college has been denationalized by the Government of the Punjab and turned over to the Presbyterian Church (USA), the owner of the campus. Working with the Pakistani Board of Governors of the college, a new faculty of 180 members has been hired and the enrollment has reached 3,570 students. The college was awarded the status of a Chartered University on October 12, 2004, and in September 2005 the University launched a new American style co-educational four year Bachelors Degree Program and new academic programs in Computer Science/Information Technology and in Business Management.

A recognized leader in American higher education and in religious circles, Dr. Peter H. Armacost was president of Eckerd College from 1977 to 2000. He accepted that appointment after 10 years as president of Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kansas (1967 – 1977). After retiring from Eckerd College in 2000, he served as Senior Advisor and Director of the Presidential Forum Program of the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), and provided consulting services, with his wife Mary-Linda, through Armacosts and Associates.

Dr. Armacost has served as a member of the Executive Committees of the Board of Directors of the Association of American colleges, Council of Independent Colleges, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), and the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities. For NAICU he chaired the Government Relations Committee, the Task Force on Assessment, and the Task Force on Accountability. He has served on the American Council

on Education's Commissions on Governmental Relations, on Women in Higher Education, and on Leadership Development. Dr. Armacost served as President of the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities (1989 – 90), as Chairman of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (1991 – 1993), as President of the Southern University Conference (1996 – 97), as President of the Associated Independent Colleges of Kansas (1970 – 72), and as Chairman of the Kansas City Regional Council for Higher Education (1972 – 74). Dr. Armacost has also been active in the work of the North Central Association (NCA) and the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS) by chairing numerous accreditation visiting teams and by serving as a member of the Commission on Colleges of the NCA and of the Committee on Criteria and Reports, and the Appeals Committee of SACS.

In 1996, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation selected Eckerd College to receive one of the first five prestigious Presidential Leadership Grants in recognition of the leadership of Peter Armacost.

As Program Director of the Association of American Colleges in Washington DC (1965 – 67), Dr. Armacost played a major role in drafting and negotiating the Joint Statement of the Rights and Freedoms of Students. While President of the Associated Independent Colleges of Kansas (1970 – 72), he was instrumental in obtaining passage of state tuition grant legislation beneficial to private college students in Kansas, and as Chairman of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida he led the effort to secure major increases in funding for the Florida Resident Access Grant program.

During his distinguished thirty-three year career as a college president, Dr. Armacost was recognized as an innovative, student-oriented leader in higher education. In addition to the leadership positions he held in national and state educational associations, he was a frequent speaker and seminar leader addressing such topics as presidential leadership, board development and effectiveness, strategic planning, alternative sources of revenue for independent colleges, assessment and accountability, the challenges and opportunities for religiously affiliated colleges, public policy and government relations, student development and curricular reform, institutional transformation, and student rights and responsibilities. He has also contributed to the literature on a number of these topics.

Active in church activities, Dr. Armacost served as President of the 106 million member American Baptist Churches in the USA (1974 – 75). He is a past Chairman and member of the Executive Committee of the General Board of the American Baptist Churches in the USA. He is currently a member and past Chairman of the Board of the American Baptist Foundation for Ministry.

Dr. Armacost is active in business and civic affairs and has served as Chairman of the Florida Chapters of the Young Presidents' Organization (1983 – 84), Chairman of the Pinellas Suncoast Chamber of Commerce (1985 – 86), President of the St. Petersburg Rotary Club (1989 – 90), Chairman of the Charter Review Committee of the City of St. Petersburg (1992 – 93) and Chairman of the Bi-racial Committee to Review the Desegregation and Busing Plan of Pinellas

County Schools (1979 – 80). He is a member of the World Presidents' Organisation (WPO), and a former member of the Chief Executive Forum (CEO).

In 1988, Dr. Armacost was selected by the Festival of the States as "Mr. Sun" – St. Petersburg's highest civic honor. In 1992 he was the recipient of the Jewish National Fund's Tree of Life Award; and in March 1999, he was inducted into the Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame. He served for eighteen years as a Director of SunTrust Bank of Tampa Bay. He has served recently on the Boards of the United Way of Pinellas County, St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Pinellas Economic Development Council and Happy Workers Children's Center.

While Dr. Armacost was President of Ottawa University, the faculty of that institution developed and implemented a distinctive educational program that won major support from such prestigious groups as the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Danforth

Foundation, the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education, and the Advanced Institutional Development Program of the United States Office of Education. Dr. Armacost also led Ottawa University in the Development of a College Without Campus degree completion program in Kansas City and Phoenix, which grew to an enrollment of over 3,000 in its first three years.

Eckerd College has a national reputation for the quality of its education program and for its leadership in pioneering new approaches to liberal arts education. Under the leadership of Dr. Armacost, Eckerd College:

- ❖ Successfully completed a \$33 million campaign in 1997
- ❖ Achieved the highest enrollment in its history growing from 853 to 1,530 + 1,300 in the Program for Experienced Learners = 2,830;
- ❖ Established a new Program for Experienced Learners which enrolls over 1,300 degree completion candidates over 25 years of age;
- ❖ Added 40 new full-time faculty positions and eight new academic majors;
- ❖ Renewed and strengthened its covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Churches;
- ❖ Approved a major new curriculum revision and initiated a second major curriculum review;
- ❖ Received prestigious grants from the Ford Foundation, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Knight Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation;
- ❖ Adopted a comprehensive long-range plan;
- ❖ Established the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College;
- ❖ Built eight new buildings, an athletic complex, and the conversion of the campus center;

- ❖ Quadrupled the size of the endowment;
- ❖ Moved to new financial stability and strength in the fiscal operations of the College as the budget grew from \$7.5 million, which had an operating deficit of \$1,142,000 in 1976 – 77, to over \$40 million with a cumulative operating surplus of over \$1,200,000;
- ❖ Started a program to convert non-income producing real estate into a major source of operating income for the College.

Dr. Armacost holds a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Economics from Denison University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and where he was honored in 1971 with a Distinguished Alumnus Citation. His graduate work was at the University of Minnesota under Danforth Foundation and National Woodrow Wilson Fellowships. He earned a Ph.D degree in 1963 with a major in Psychology and a minor in Educational Psychology, and he completed a year of postdoctoral study in Theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1962 – 63.

Dr. Armacost, who is married to Dr. Mary-Linda Merriam Armacost, President Emerita of Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia and former President of Wilson College in Chambersburg (Pennsylvania), lives at 555 Fifth Ave. NE, St. Petersburg. Dr. Armacost has four children with his first wife, Suzanne Sadosky Armacost (who died February 8, 1991): Martha, David, Sarah, and Rebecca, and nine grandchildren.

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