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Dr. Champion

Living a Life of Significance

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Interview

When I first met Mrs. Melissa, I was very young. Her daughter was best friends with my little sister. As I began to grow older, I looked up to Mrs. Melissa. Everything about her life seemed so organized and structured. She has three kids, a husband, and a lot of pets. She has a demanding job but always makes time for her family, parents, and her own personal life. Her house was always decorated for every holiday, she always threw parties with the best food, and made sure she helped fulfill her kids’ passions. Mrs. Melissa has taught me that you never do not have enough time for anything if you prioritize your time correctly. She is a big part of the reason I am interested in nursing.

I began the interview asking what exactly she is currently doing and what other jobs she has had in nursing. She is currently a RN (clinical documentation specialist), but previously she was a neonatal nurse for thirteen years and spent five years as a RN systems coordinator. She identified this field of work because she had a friend who was a current nurse. Her friend recruited her to the field of nursing, and she is so glad she did. But before she committed, she thought of the pros and cons. The pros heavily outweighed the cons. She explained that there are many areas in the field of nursing, and she would always have a stable job. She even brought up the fact that she made more money in her career especially during COVID-19. She wanted to make sure she always had stability.

Her current role provides her with the ability to have a work and life balance. This is so important to me. She has a flexible schedule and is allowed to work from home whenever needed. Her youngest daughter plays high school and travel soccer, so her job allows her to travel with her daughter while still being able to work. Her middle son is still in high school, and she helps him navigate his life to make sure he is content. Her oldest son currently goes to UAB and is the med program. She gives her time to her kids whenever they need her. Her husband has a demanding job, so she plans trips in advance for the two of them like camping.

She has had multiple mentors and support throughout her career. First, her mom and dad who were always there for her on every level. Her mom works in the same field, so she shared her experiences with her and talked her through every part of school. Her fellow nurses also served as mentors. They all helped each other if someone did not understand something. It was an uplifting environment. It was hard to fail unless you did not show up. She mentioned how everyone around you wants you to succeed because the nursing field is crucial and always demanding.

Nursing school was not like actual nursing at all she told me. This caught me by surprise. She learned a lot as a nurse technician while she was still in school. She repeatedly described how vital the hands-on learning was for her. It gave her experience and made her more comfortable in her position. When I asked her about any failures, she said she really did not have anything that set her back. But learning to be an effective communicator took some time. Each area that she worked in helped her prepare for her current role. The knowledge and experiences she gained allowed her to perform at a higher level in her current role. She realized quickly mistakes happen, but you must learn from them and make yourself a better person overall. She described that her way of living a life of significance is to be able to make a difference in patient’s lives. Both directly when in patient care and indirectly by affecting outcomes through provider education.

\*Conclusion?

\*Works Cited