



LAKISHA WILLIAMS

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

"I DON'T HAVE TO BE IN THE LIMELIGHT—I LOVE JUST PARTICIPATING IN THE THE EVOLUTION OF EVERYTHING AND HAVING A SENSE OF MAKING MAKING A DIFFERENCE."

In every job Lakisha has held, she is always helping others. Her role as a Licensed Practical Nurse allows her to give back to her community while also pushing her to grow.

WHAT IS YOUR UNIQUE GENIUS?

"My ability to go one step at a time—you might stumble but you keep going."

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER?

"When I was younger and people would ask what I want to be when I grow up, I always envisioned something in medical. I've always wanted to help people and I'm levelheaded in a crisis."

IN WHAT WAYS IS YOUR CAREER A PERFECT FIT FOR YOU?

"I find that it's the right fit for me because my options are endless. Straight out of school, I went into correctional nursing. I worked at a medium security prison in Massachusetts. It was great, but I needed more hands on experience. My goal was to get into a hospital—and here I am. I love it because there's so much you can do."

WHAT DOES A DAY IN THE LIFE LOOK LIKE?

"I work the evening shift, so it starts at 6:45 pm. I come in and look at my assignment to see which patients I have. Then I go into my computer, look at their orders, look at any labs and medications, and get acquainted with their history."

Once I gather all my stuff, then I go and do a check in with all of my patients and inform them that I'm the nurse for their shift. I'll introduce myself and do a head-to-toe assessment to see how oriented they are. I find it's a lot easier when you engage them in the conversation and explain to them the process. They make better decisions when they're informed."

"I try to take a lesson from everyone that I meet. I try to keep an open mind and not become so complacent where I feel like I've seen it all."

WHAT SKILLS DOES IT TAKE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR JOB?

"The biggest skill is the willingness to learn and being able to put your ego aside. You can't compare nursing to anything because there are new things you have to learn every day. The key is to evolve and constantly better your craft. Make it the best and make it your own."

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU KNEW WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?

"Every little goal you accomplish is a win. The win may be that you were able to put gas in your car, but accept that and relish in it. Be happy for everything you have but still be hungry for more. You have to be a little greedy for the things that you want."

"My whole life experience has molded me into what you see today. I'm still evolving, I'm still growing—complacency is not an option."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF ON YOUR JOURNEY?

"I worked in Human Services for over 13 years and I hit my ceiling of what I could do and I was burnt out. I needed something where I wasn't just coming in and punching a clock every day—something that I really had a passion about. So I went to a trade school for nursing and 18 months later, I graduated and haven't looked back."

WHAT IS THE COOLEST PART OF YOUR JOB? WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?

"The coolest part of my job would have to be the the ability to keep me on my toes. You never know what's going to be thrown at you or what you're going to walk into."

But being able to figure out the best option to move forward is also the the most challenging part of my job. As a nurse, and as a person, you're not going to know how to do everything. You could come into something that completely baffles you and you have to think back on your training."

WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR FIELD/JOB?

"There's a lot we do down to getting [the patients] something to drink, giving [them] a shower, assisting in everyday care, medications, [reaching] out to the provider and seeing what other actions need to take place. So we're a jack of all trades."

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE?

"There was a time when I was babysitting my younger sibling. She fell and broke her arm and I made her a sling, put some ice on it, and gave her some Tylenol. Being able to care for her until my mom came home to take her to the hospital was kind of cool."