

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 0:03

Hi, this is Marla Blunt-Carter from Rutgers School of Social Work's Toward a More Just Future. During my time with Delaware Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, I asked a few extra questions that didn't make our episode. Here's a rapid-fire with Congresswoman Blunt Rochester.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 0:23

What is your proudest achievement?

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 0:26

Proudest achievement. Today, I will say getting up. And I can't say, you know, I a lot of times I think of my children, because they're so incredible. But I love there's a Gibran poem called On Children. And it basically says your children are not your children like they come through you, but they are not you. So they, but they make me proud. They make proud.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 0:52

Yes. So what was the hardest thing you have ever done?

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 0:58

Run for Congress?

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 1:00

I will attest to that. I was a witness.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 1:04

Who do you admire? And I know that list is long. And I share with you in most of them, but off the top of your head if I you know, if you can name three people, I'm not going to just give you one. Three people that you admire most.

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 1:20

My mom, my dad and my two sisters.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 1:25

Okay, who motivates you?

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 1:29

God motivates me. But, you and my daughter. My family and I have some key friends that keep me going.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 1:40

So your circle?

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 1:42

My circle. Yeah, yeah.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 1:44

Circles tight. Okay.

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 1:46

It's very tight and very motivating, especially when I need that energy but it comes from God.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 1:54

So now let's get to the more trivial. Are there any books that you've recently read that have had an impact on you? Any books? And then any movies, as well? Because I know that you are a movie buff.

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 2:08

Oh, man. Let me see. Let me see. Let me see. Books. So, I just read a book that I cannot remember the title of and it's killing me. I can't remember if it was a it was this book about the- your daughter turned me on to it- about the family from Africa there out

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 2:28

Homecoming

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 2:29

Homecoming. Yes, yeah, that was so it was really, you know, I was actually in the middle of reading Caste. And I wanted to like take a break. And even though this was not much lighter, the break, but it was, but I love writing. And so like, and I'm a writer. And so before that I had read the book by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The Water

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 2:58

Water Dancer

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 2:59

Yes. Oh, that was so beautifully written as well. So I love books. But you know, I'm a movie buff.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 3:05

Yes, you are.

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 3:06

Movies are my thing. And in right now, I feel like I've like seen so many different things. But the but on that One Night in Miami was the one of the most recent ones that I've watched it. Oh, man, I just loved that it was so powerful.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 3:23

Okay, that's fantastic. And, you know, sadly, this is rapid-fire. And we didn't get a chance to include a big part of who you are in our interview, which is that you are a writer. So I'm glad that you did share that with everyone. And that's why the the book is is a hard thing for you to do because you love books as well as movies. So now let's get to the last rapid-fire question.

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 3:45

Oh, and I'm reading Barack Obama's book right now. It's oof. I'm listening on Audible. Yeah.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 3:52

So what's the greatest lesson that you've learned? And who or what taught you that lesson? What's the greatest lesson?

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 4:02

Let go, let God. It's the lesson I'm still trying to learn. I wish I could say I fully had fully learned it. And, who has taught me this lesson? Life. Charles. When Charles died, that was really, really probably the most transformational moment of my life in terms of every single emotion and living it and that's why I say even getting up sometimes for many of us is an accomplishment.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 4:37

Right

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 4:37

You know, and then most recently, having been in the balcony, the gallery of the Capitol when the insurrection took place. I remember thinking, I didn't feel like I was gonna die, but I felt like everything came together for that moment. And all I could do was pray. And I knew I don't have bullets. I don't have power over these people. But I have the power of prayer, and the letting go and letting God take care of us. And that's, I learn it every day. I learn that lesson every day.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 5:23

Wow. Well, thank you for the rapid-fire. Thank you for sharing your wisdom. And thank you for joining us today.

Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester 5:29

Thanks Marla.