

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 00:05

This is Marla Blunt-Carter from Rutgers School of Social Work's Toward a More Just Future podcast. During my time with Jennifer Thompson, I asked a few extra questions that didn't make our episode. Here's our rapid fire with Jennifer Thompson.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 00:24

Okay, Jennifer, let's start our rapid fire questions. What is your proudest achievement? And you can elaborate on that one.

Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director, NASW-NJ/DE 00:35

My family, being a mother and a working mother and being able to balance it all, and be present in my family's life is absolutely my proudest achievement. It's not easy task.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 00:46

Which is the next question, what was the hardest thing you've ever done?

Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director, NASW-NJ/DE 00:52

Take a risk on myself. And believe that I could do it.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 00:57

Yeah. So Jennifer, what is currently on your playlist?

Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director, NASW-NJ/DE 01:04

Alicia Keys, Underdog, because it reminds me of who we fight for every day.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 01:10

So who do you admire?

Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director, NASW-NJ/DE 01:13

My mother. She's ultimate social worker.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 01:16

Yeah, I do too, after this interview. In one word, what motivates you?

Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director, NASW-NJ/DE 01:25

Controversy

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 01:27

Oh, yes. In one word, what inspires you?



Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director, NASW-NJ/DE 01:36

Solutions

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 01:39

And the last question, what's the greatest lesson you've learned? And who or what taught you this lesson?

Jennifer Thompson, Executive Director, NASW-NJ/DE 01:51

The greatest lesson I've learned is resilience. And I learned that from my father. My father passed away when I was young. But he faced a lot of uncertainties in his life and a lot of challenges and first generation, immigrant family with no money and he's faced a lot of adversity. And I saw him meet those challenges and rise above time and again, and be so resilient. And it really taught me that it does not matter what life hands you are, what your circumstances are, how many times you fail. You can pick yourself up, you can dust yourself off, you are not your last story. You are, what the future holds, and you can create that narrative.