

Transcript of Interview with Toni Downs by Alisha Downs

Interviewee: Toni Downs

Interviewer: Alisha Downs

Date: 02/20/2021

Location (Interviewee): Augusta, Kansas

Location (Interviewer):

Abstract: Toni Downs is the Director of Surgical Services, the Cath Lab, and Endoscopy at Mercy Regional Hospital in Manhattan, Kansas. She is 64 and has been in nursing since she was 21 years old. She has worked there for over a decade now, and has seen many challenges while working there. This pandemic has been the worst she's seen since being a nurse, but it is not without its blessings. The nursing profession has been strong and fierce in fighting this pandemic and as a director, Toni sees their dedication and strength. When asked what her silver lining is during this pandemic, she immediately goes to nursing. Toni touches on other front line workers that deserve recognition, but she thinks that the pandemic has caused people to pay more attention to the hard work nurses do for their community. She sees being a nurse as a caring and rewarding job, and is glad other people are starting to see it too.

Alisha Downs 0:00

Hi, my name is Alisha Downs, and I'm an undergraduate student at ASU enrolled in HST 494. The date is Saturday February, 20th, 2021. The time is 8:30 AM, and I am speaking with Toni Downs. I want to ask you a question about your pandemic experience. Before I do, I would like to ask for your consent to record this response for the COVID-19 archive. The COVID-19 archive is a digital archive at ASU that is collecting pandemic experiences. Do I have your consent to record your response and add it to the archive with your name?

Toni Downs 0:43

Yes.

Alisha Downs 0:45

Thank you! First, can you tell me your name and age?

Toni Downs 0:50

My name is Toni Downs, and I am 64.

Alisha Downs 0:53

And how about your race?

Toni Downs 0:55

I'm Caucasian.

Alisha Downs 0:56

And where do you live?

Toni Downs 0:58

I live in Augusta, Kansas.

Alisha Downs 1:02

Thank you! Now I'd like to ask you a quick question about the pandemic. We've experienced a lot of changes in 2020 and many have been negative and disruptive, but perhaps it's not all bad. What's one positive thing you've experienced during the pandemic?

Toni Downs 1:18

Well since I'm a nurse, I feel like our profession has gotten a lot of notoriety even though we are just one of many people taking care of our communities. There are so many front line workers and store- people that work at the grocery stores and people delivering packages through the trucking system. I think everybody deserves recognition, but I do feel like the nursing profession is definitely seen as a very rewarding and caring profession, which it always has been, but I feel like the pandemic had really brought that out.

Alisha Downs 2:05

That's wonderful; that's beautifully said! Well, thank you for your time today.