

Connections

A PUBLICATION FOR BAYSTATE HEALTH TEAM MEMBERS

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1. Most rewarding aspect of working in healthcare:

The most rewarding aspect of working in healthcare for me has been the unparalleled opportunity I have to serve each day and make a difference in the lives of patients, families, employees, and communities through advocacy and action.

When I can serve as a “change agent” to support equitable delivery of quality healthcare services or the professional advancement of diverse and under-represented individuals in the healthcare sector, I know that this is not simply impacting one patient or individual. Instead, it is also positively building opportunities for health and economic prosperity for their families, future generations, and communities. What could be more rewarding than knowing that you are facilitating the removal of barriers and changing systems to facilitate access, opportunity, and justice for others? Nothing at all.

2. Share an interesting fact people would be surprised to know about you:

I am an avid college basketball fan. I love everything about the game and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Tarheels. This love was cultivated through growing up in a multi-generational household with my grandparents and watching sports, namely football and basketball, with my Pop-Pop Andrew. Long before I knew what college was, I knew Carolina Blue, the Tarheels, and Coach Dean Smith (who is a legendary hall of fame coach in college basketball

known for creating winners on and off the court and his positive approaches in coaching, teamwork, and life). At least once a year, I travel to Chapel Hill to see my beloved Tarheels play, as well as cheer them on throughout the season and during March Madness!

A few other fun facts about me include my intense love for international travel (visiting six out of seven continents and multiple countries throughout adulthood) and that I am engaged to be married September of this year!

3. Best advice you’ve ever received:

The best advice I have ever received is focused on knowing that I could never be defined by the standards of others, money, title, or status; but, instead by my character and the contributions to those whom I served. This advice allowed me early in my career to not feel pressured to travel a road that was not designed for me; but instead, travel the path where my passions lied.

It was here, in nursing and public health, where I have found tremendous joy and happiness in my professional and personal experiences, loved my life’s work, and feel “rich” beyond measure. Most



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importantly, I have been able to be a change agent in the lives of so many patient-families experiencing disparate maternal-child outcomes and health disparities in ways I never imagined.

(Right) Tyonne with her guide at the Tegalalang Rice Terraces in Bali, Indonesia.

