

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 00:10

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

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 00:28

Okay, Senator Coons, let's start our rapid-fire questions. First, what is your proudest achievement?

Senator Chris Coons 00:36

Being a good husband and father. To the extent I am.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 00:40

You are. What was the hardest thing you've ever done?

Senator Chris Coons 00:45

Say goodbye to my dad.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 00:48

Who do you admire?

Senator Chris Coons 00:51

My mother and my father, and my wife, and my wife, and my father-in-law. And a whole lot of other people, but those are the ones that matter most.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 01:02

What motivates you?

Senator Chris Coons 01:06

A sense of purpose, duty, and calling. An awareness that there are millions and millions of people out there here at home in the United States and around the world who think we don't see them. And we don't care and who are desperate for someone to see them and to care about them and to help.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 01:26

And lastly, what's the greatest lesson that you've learned? Who taught it? And what was the lesson?

Senator Chris Coons 01:36

I don't know. There's a lot of lessons. But a simple one that I share in the political context, is under promise and over deliver. Do not promise people things that you think you can do, but you're not sure you can do. So, listen more than you talk. Under promise and over deliver. My mom always said God gave you two ears and one mouth

and that should suggest a ratio. That's the listen and more than you talk. And my dad was the one who after, I think some painful lessons in life said under promise and over deliver. Surprise and delight people by getting back to them faster than they thought you could, giving them an answer that they thought you couldn't. But do not try to make them happy right up front by promising things. If you're not absolutely sure you can do it.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 02:22

That's it. Thanks.

Senator Chris Coons 02:24

Thanks, Marla. Great being on with you. God bless.

Marla Blunt-Carter, Assistant Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work 02:27

Bye