

voices))) of integrity



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“The quality of service that I provide speaks for itself.”

My name is Judith Nwachukwu. I’m stationed at the Wilmington VA in Delaware. My role here is clinical pharmacy specialist. My area of specialty is mainly infectious disease and hematology and oncology.

My day-to-day function usually entails working with physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, physical therapists, physician assistants, students, residents, and essentially making sure that each Veteran has a Veteran-centered, evidence-based therapeutic plan, including medication regimen and monitoring.

To me, I think integrity encompasses honor, trust, respect and expectation to do the right thing. My core values and just the passion that I have for what I do and the service that I provide basically drives my daily activities. I personally don’t believe in mediocrity, so for that, I do my best to make sure that the quality of service that I provide speaks for itself.

My Veterans have essentially entrusted me with their lives to make sure that their medications are appropriate for their specific diseases. Likewise, my colleagues who I work with also entrust me with assisting them to make sure that we provide exceptional care for the Veterans.

When I think about fostering a culture of integrity, specifically given recent headlines surrounding the VA, I think it is very important and quite beneficial to all Veterans, whether they receive their care from the VA or not, to foster that culture of integrity whereby our Veterans know that the individuals who serve them will do the right thing by them every single time. The same applies to American taxpayers, as they also contribute the funds needed to manage federal government programs.

If I’m expecting someone to exhibit integrity, I myself have to be an example that I want others to follow. My father once said to me – this was before I went into pharmacy school – he said, whatever you want to be in life, just be the best at it by just doing your best. And it stuck with me like glue. And that’s what I try to do.

I would encourage everyone to really take the time to reflect on their personal core values, and consciously just make note of how those values and characteristics align with those of the organization or the people that they serve. So for us at the VA, it’s the Veterans. And to note what type of legacy you would want to leave behind when you leave the job or leave the service. What do you want people to know you for? What do you want people to know your work for?