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MS. JENNIFER LALANI: Promoting Public Health and Safety in Florida

By Sarah Kajani



Ms. Lalani at a meeting with President Bush.

Albert Schweitzer once said: "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: The ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

If those words hold true, then it seems that Jennifer Lalani may have realized her destiny. Today, Ms. Lalani is a successful pharmacist, a devoted mother, and a member of the Florida Board of Pharmacy.

Ms. Lalani, a pharmacist for 20 years, is a District Manager for CVS Pharmacy, overseeing a chain of 30 stores. She was appointed to the Florida Board of Pharmacy after being nominated by Jeb Bush, the former Governor of Florida. Her 4 year appointment (2005-2009) was confirmed by the Florida Senate. Her passion for pharmacy began early—in both high school and college, she enjoyed studying the sciences. Ms. Lalani pursued her education at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy with the help of a scholarship from Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) USA. Ms. Lalani comments that she chose to become a pharmacist because "When patients get ill, they are not always able to go to the doctor, so instead they choose to go to the pharmacy for medication and can receive free advice from the pharmacist themselves."

The Florida Board of Pharmacy is a means for her to give back to her profession. The Board promotes the health of Floridians by regulating facilities, assisting in developing policy plans and legislature proposals, and providing

licensure for pharmacy professionals. Additionally, the Board assesses candidates for certification and implements federal rules to protect public health and safety.

In the future, Ms. Lalani hopes to get further involved in practical community service with Habitat for Humanity or even serving as a volunteer abroad. She hopes to be re-nominated to the Florida Board of Pharmacy. Ms. Lalani credits the AKF scholarship, her mother and Mawlana Hazar Imam for her professional success. The scholarship paved a way for her to attend the School of Pharmacy; her mother's teachings instilled in her a love of learning and motivated her to seek higher education; the Imam's Farman's taught her the value of education and impressed upon her the need to give back to one's community and family. In addition to this State position, she also serves as a volunteer on the Advisory Boards of the Central Florida College and the Eckert Credit Union.

She advises the youth of today, "to stay focused and continue to pursue life-long learning even after you have established your careers. Also, volunteer in either your job or your community because it will not only help your career and open doors for you, but it will also help you grow as a person." ▼