

Glykeria Martou

Interviewee: Glykeria Martou, Kingston, November 12th 2017, Duration: 12:57			
Interviewed by: George Katinas; Translation: Athina Peidou			
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Interview Time	Chronology	Place	Description
0:00		Canada	Glykeria came to Canada under a student visa. This status constraints the opportunities for scholarships, work etc. Additionally, getting into medical school and law school being an international student makes the competition very high
0:58			Residency was also not allowed for international students. Glykeria did not hold a work permit at that point. She contacted the medical ministry and the ministry wanted Glykeria to do her residency in Canada. On the other hand, the immigration ministry did not allow it.
1:35			Thus, Glykeria joined University of Toronto as research associate and she got a permanent residence status that allowed her to do her residency. The process is very time-consuming, and it is easy to get discouraged.
2:05			There were many obstacles. After her bachelor studies very few people (only 1/100) international students get into the medical school. McMaster had 1 opening for an international student.
2:27			Glykeria won the competition and got into the medical school. It was an amazing 3 years' experience. She travelled to Africa and the US.
2:42			The next obstacle was to get into the residency. However, a professor hired her as research assistant and during 1 year Glykeria got her permanent residence status that allowed her to do her residency at a hospital in Toronto.
2:50			An additional constraint was that the number of people accepted into plastic surgery was 10 out of 150 doctors. However, Glykeria was dedicated to making her dream come true.
3:35			Glykeria dreamed, insisted, and worked. That is how she succeeded.
4:07			The trade-off was the personal time that Glykeria did not invest on her husband and family. However, Glykeria prioritized her residency in Canada.
5:00			After all these sacrifices life is better, especially for Glyka's children. Every success is brought by sacrifices. Having children is the most difficult task for a person. At the same time the pleasure is unmatched.

6:00			Glykeria's dream is to raise her children properly. As a traditional Greek, Glykeria wants her children to be good people, with Greek identity, respecting values, being close to church and at the end of the day being useful people for society.
7:01			Regarding her job, she wishes to help her patients, finding solutions and being useful to them. She wishes to progress.
7:33			The program of breast reconstruction that Glykeria leads changes the lives of patients as beforehand they had to commute to big cities and wait in wait-lines.
7:50			Glykeria created an organization in Greece for reconstruction. She keeps an office in Greece and wishes to continue working on this organization especially for providing information to patients on reconstruction.
8:23			Glykeria doesn't plan to move back to Greece. She wishes to continue working in Kingston. She has gone back and forth to Greece three times already.
9:01			However, Glykeria keeps a very close relationship with her family and friends. Greece is a huge portion of her life. Above all she is Greek. Now, she is also Canadian, and she feels doubly blessed.
9:40			If at some point she feels that the group she leads is in good hands she might return to Greece to help on this particular task.
10:00			Glykeria considers the Greek culture to have a very positive impact on societies. Unfortunately, due to the financial crisis many young well-educated Greeks immigrate to other countries such as Canada. Canada is very lucky.
10:40			Glykeria considers all people to be citizens of the world. When a person immigrates here, Canada has only good opportunities to offer. A person might come here, get all this Canadian experience and return to Greece to help Greece.
11:15			Overall, she thinks that people should try their best and then God ultimately guides people's destinies.
11:25			Canada is a great opportunity for someone who wants to connect ambition with chance.
11:54			Canada is a very friendly and warm country for an immigrant and a different culture.

12:20			It is a win-win approach. Glykeria was able to follow her dreams and at the same time the local community of Kingston is benefited by the program that Glykeria leads.
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