

Computing Educators Oral History Project

***Amardeep Kahlon* video snippet transcript**

Recorded Friday, February 14, 2014 in New Delhi, India

Interview Conducted by Barbara Boucher Owens

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So I want to relate an experience related to early on in my career. I applied for a full time faculty member at the college and I was interviewed by a panel of ten people. One of the people on the panel was my then department chair of the department. It was a male. All kinds of grueling questions including teaching demonstration. After that I was invited by the vice-president of the college to interview with her and based on these two interviews I was selected for the position. So, of course, I was excited; it was a great opportunity. And two days after that the then department chair, who was the male, came to me and literally stood eight inches away from my face and told me I was not his first choice for the position because I had children and I wouldn't be able to do a good job because I had children. Of course, naïve as I was at that time I just kind of laughed off his suppositions about my abilities. Many years later I thought about it that I should have confronted him to ask d asked him if my brain had also been sucked out of my body while giving birth to my kids, but I didn't. Well, two days after he had told me that I had kids and wouldn't be able to do a good job, I found out from my son's school that he (who was at that time he was nine years old) he had got off at the wrong stop at the school bus. And I ran, of course, from work and collected my son safe and sound and next day I was soundly told off by the same department chair that this was a forty hour a week job and if I had to run off for my kids like that I wouldn't be able to do a good job at it. Well, I persevered. I went on to get several teaching excellence awards and everything and I was still at the college. And I often thought about that incident, that I was mentally strong so I was able get through it. But if somebody who was not mentally strong, who got intimidated, would have either left the college of gone some

other place to industry or maybe just been totally unhappy. So here I was, seventeen years later still at the college. He was no longer department chair two years after I joined but I was still there and I was still doing well and I was still connecting with my students, my peers and doing wonderful stuff and I'm glad I stuck it out. Okay! Thank you!