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Boston District Attorney Rachael Rollins shares Six Secrets for Success with RWU School of Law

This Wednesday afternoon, Rachael Rollins delivered the Martin Luther King Jr. Keynote Lecture at the Roger Williams School of Law in the Honorable Bruce M. Selya Appellate Courtroom. Audience members had the honor of soaking up Rollin’s wisdom, learning not only about her groundbreaking platform, but also about the lived experience and professional drive that make her uniquely qualified for this role.

“I am the District Attorney of Suffolk County,” Rollins told the crowd. “I have a younger brother that’s currently incarcerated. I bring that lived experience to work with me every single day when I sit down to make decisions.”

The understanding and empathy gained from family experience, along with countless professional accomplishments – including serving as a state and federal prosecutor, Chief Legal Counsel for Massachusetts Port Authority, member of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey’s Advisory Council on Racial Justice and Equity, and now, Suffolk County DA – make her a true trailblazer for our students.

So how did she do it?

Read her six secrets for success and live every day like you’re Rachael Rollins.
1. “Be grateful. Every morning when you wake up is a day to be grateful for. I wake up and even if it’s just for five seconds, I’m like ‘thank you – I am alive’ and then I determine what my day is going to be like.”

2. “I’m good at everything I do, because I only do three things. We need to be very deliberate about what we’re doing.”

3. “I say this to everyone, but especially the women in the room. Know your worth. The greatest thing that ever happened to me was I know what I am worth.”

4. “I cannot tell you how many people said to me – ‘there’s never been a woman that’s done this before. There’s never been a visible person of color that’s done this before. There’s no way you can win being DA in Boston.’ You’ve got to put all the noise out of your head and just focus on doing the work.”
5. “Always do what’s right, not easy. If it’s right, it doesn’t matter if you’re vilified. You have to do what’s right, especially if you’re an elected official.”

6. “Failure happens. Where people are exceptional is how quickly you react after you fail. Learn from that mistake and then pick yourself up and start moving onto the next thing.”