Morris-Priester remembers watching in awe as doctors cared for her ailing grandmother—deciding she would someday join their ranks. She graduated from high school, despite becoming a mother at age 16, but had to put her dreams of medical school on hold.

By age 29, with five children and a husband who wanted her to delay her dreams, she left the marriage to pursue her goals. While working multiple jobs, she attended Harrisburg Area Community College and graduated summa cum laude with an associate degree in nursing in 1996.

In 2007, Morris-Priester became the first grandmother to graduate from Yale School of Medicine and was recognized by Oprah Winfrey for her perseverance, inspiration, and compassion to others.

Dr. Morris-Priester practices anesthesiology in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and gives back by mentoring students interested in healthcare fields and organizing a medical mission to Ghana. She also gives back by sharing her story to encourage and inspire others.

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