

## **Ingham Impact Episode 39 – Kathy Cochran**

Kari Williams: Kathy was new to the program. '96 was her first year of teaching; I was a junior student, and I honestly remember walking into the classroom and, she was just beautiful! She dressed so trendy, and her hair was cute, and I was like, "We are so lucky that we got her as a teacher!" Trisha Wilson: I actually met Kathy in cosmetology school in 1980; became roommates. She was actually in my wedding. It's more like a sibling from another mother, of sorts. I'm graciously intertwined with her family over the years, as she has been with mine. One of her conversations to me was like, hey, you need to go get your cos instructor's license. I'm in my 17th year teaching with Kathy, and so, it's been quite a ride. Colleen Hitzman: I think during my years of teaching cosmetology, and prior to that, I had worked in a salon, so she was always very interested in that part of the program. Kathy Cochran: Probably the person that inspired me the most was my mother. My mother was a licensed cosmetologist; I grew up in the salon, watching her, so it's in my blood. Colleen Hitzman: Over the years, I have said this to Kathy so many times: her enthusiasm; her dedication to the program; her constant improving herself to improve her program; she dresses the part, looks the part; It's just amazing to me because it's the same today as it was on her very first day. Kari Williams: Just throughout the two years of school, she made a huge impact on me, and I knew I needed that in my life, I really wanted her to be a part of my life forever. I think it started when I graduated school, I had made that call telling her that I had passed my state boards... ..And then I just didn't stop calling her! I just pushed my way into her life. We have an ongoing joke about, I'm the daughter that she never had, because she has three sons, and I embraced the whole family, I looked up to her; not only as a teacher at that point, but I saw her as a mom. Kathy Cochran: Having a connection with all of your students is really important. In order to connect with these kids it's getting to know each and every one of them, and all of their idiosyncrasies. Trisha Wilson: Her ability to really get in and inspire someone; if they've got the passion, how she is really able to pull that out, and help them be the best they can be. Truly leading by example, keeping the bar really high, and she truly loves her job. Kathy Cochran: Time has flown by, and I think it's flown by because I love what I do; I really do, I love teaching, I love working with students, and I love teaching Career and Technical Education. Kari Williams: I believe all of her qualities are in me; I am who I am, honestly, just because she was a second mom to me. Colleen Hitzman: I look at that as, a drop of water that causes a ripple. And, if you can change one person, just one person, and they take that attitude and help someone else, and someone else. We don't even begin to know the magnitude of what this one person created, way back here.

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