



Princess Bio

Name: Zemzem Hussen [ZEM-ZEM hu-SEN]
School: Roosevelt High School
Birthplace: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Parents/Guardians: Ahimed Bati and Badatu Korbino
Siblings: Hawi, Abdisa, Abdulmajeed, Sultan, Abdu, Abdurahman, Kedir
Year in school: Senior

Future education plans:

I plan to attend Oregon State University to major in nutrition on the pre-medical path.

Career plans:

I'll specialize in Family medicine where I can represent underserved communities in the healthcare system.

High School Activities & Honors:

Received the Black Excellence Award freshman year, and was selected by the Principal to represent Roosevelt in the Portland Public School district. Student Equity Council & Black Student Union. I helped organize the annual "Hoodies-up" day at Roosevelt High School.

Hobbies and special interests: I love playing soccer with my siblings. I also love reading whenever I can. I work at the Oregon Zoo to educate historically marginalized communities about conservation. I give lessons on nature and animals at local community centers, boys and girls clubs and apartment complexes. I also take kids on their first camping trips.

What is your favorite place to visit in Portland and why?

Downtown St. Johns right in the heart of North Portland in my opinion. The middle ground where our diverse community gathers and seeks refuge and supports each other. I can go to the nearby Cathedral park and enjoy a live band in the summer. I can dip my toes in the water while enjoying the peaceful river, or read my books and sit under the shade of the St. Johns bridge.

What are you most proud of during your high school career?

I am proud of my experience in student equity council. Since freshman year, I've built my voice and made real change within the school and my community. Being asked to be a part of interviewing staff was the most proud thing I have done, to serve not only Roosevelt High School and the students, but the community of North Portland. My leadership for the Roosevelt community and students gave me the privilege to be highlighted in a district video. It showed my hard work to keep this legacy of community and student input valued.

What is your favorite Rose Festival event and why?

After my first attendance at the St. Johns Parade I never missed one. Where better than to have the parade in the living room of St. Johns? I take pride in that. The St. Johns community is where I found a community where I saw and experienced togetherness within a diverse community.

Unitus Community Credit Union Mentor: Gayle Evans