



Portland
State
UNIVERSITY



President's Equal Access Scholars

2020 - 2021



Global Diversity & Inclusion
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The President's Equal Access Scholarship

Portland State University is committed to ensuring all students have the access and support they need to achieve their goals. Through the President's Equal Access Scholarship, PSU is able to support students from diverse backgrounds and experiences, including racial and ethnic backgrounds, that are traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

Since it was established in 2011, the President's Equal Access Scholarship has awarded nearly \$1.2 million and helped more than 800 students fund their education.

The President's Equal Access scholarship has helped students in significant ways:

- Provided crucial support to diverse first generation college students to obtain a higher education degree.
- Provided critical funding to pay for tuition for students with little to zero expected family contribution (EFC), often times averting the need for a student to drop-out due to lack of funding.
- Provided opportunities for service learning and campus involvement.
- Facilitates student engagement around issues relevant to our desire to be an equitable and inclusive community.
- Supported students who have typically been underrepresented in higher education.
- Supported non-traditionally aged students.

PEAS Coordinating Team peas@pdx.edu | 503.725.5919 | RMNC 830



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Meet the Scholars

2020 – 2021



Jordan Aljbour They/them/theirs | Environmental Physics Major, Minor in Mathematics and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

I am a proud STEM-Honors student at PSU, who seeks to dedicate myself to a career in climatology and research in alternative energy resources. If I am not working on schoolwork; I am volunteering with OMSI educating children on all things science, working tirelessly on my research projects, and most importantly striving to effect much needed positive change in our world. I have a passion for all beings of nature; as I care for roughly 12 different pets and over 55 different plant species!

What I love about PSU: it embodies a diverse community of knowledge seekers with a passion of bettering our world.



Melody Martinez Barrientos She/her/hers | Arts & Letters Major, Spanish & Pre-Education Minors

I am a first generation student, and I will be the first to graduate with a bachelor's degree. I consider myself to be a creative person, and I love to try new things. I am planning on becoming an elementary school teacher, and I'd like to work with minority students. I have been a part of many leadership roles such as being a mentor in the GANAS program at PSU. I have many hobbies including roller skating, sewing, running, painting and drawing.

What I love about PSU: it's been my gateway to my future.



Ka Shawna L. Bell She/her/hers | Applied Health & Fitness, Community Health Promotion, Psychology Majors

I am a mom to four teenagers/young adults who make me proud of who they are and inspire me to live my life authentically. I was the 2020 PCC Rose Scholar, and I had the opportunity to present a couple of breakout sessions addressing adverse childhood experiences. I am really proud of the fact that I was able to graduate from PCC with a 4.0 even though I'm an older student. I've never felt like I was truly capable of excelling, especially not with academics. Even though life has been difficult at times, I'm seeing that I am stronger than I ever thought possible, due in large part to the supportive people I currently have surrounding me. I am an assistant swim coach even though I was a gymnast when I was younger.

What I love about PSU: the opportunities for growth, and faculty who want to help you.



Isidro Chan He/him/his | Public Health: Clinical Health Science Major

Ever since I was given the opportunity to study, I have dreamed of becoming a physician. Through my undergrad, I have worked as a medical scribe and medical interpreter and loved my experiences doing both. I have also helped a medical school student at OHSU with a research project and had the opportunity to present it during his 4th year research day event. Lastly, my biggest accomplishment is working alongside my church as a youth director and now being able to help start a new youth church! I am into hiking!

What I love about PSU: there is so much diversity!



Victor Chavez He/him/his | Political Science Major, Criminology & Criminal Justice and Law & Legal Studies Minors

I am proud to serve our PSU student as their Student Body Vice President. My major aligns with what I do on campus and gives me an opportunity to practice my education. I look forward to graduating with my Bachelors Degree in Political Science and attending law school after undergrad. I enjoy kayaking and playing tennis.

What I love about PSU: The opportunities it has for students to engage and be change makers in our community.



Joey Choi She/her/hers | Accounting, Human Resources Major, Leadership Management Minor

One achievement I am proud of is being involved with different programs or involvement on campus to enrich my time at PSU. I have taken on various leadership positions on campus while being a full-time student and having two on-campus jobs. Being in different positions has allowed me to grow as a person, my connection, and my professionalism. One attribute that makes me the unique person I am is my willingness to keep learning. My long-term goal is to find a career where I can keep working and learning in a job I am excited to go to work for each day. I love Legos, puzzles, and the food scene in Portland..

What I love about PSU: It is a supportive system that provides me opportunities and a chance to grow and connect with others.



Diana Hernandez-Cuesta She/her/hers | Public Health Major, Latino Studies Minor

I am an undergraduate majoring in Public Health as well as minoring in Chicano/Latino Studies. An achievement that I am proud of is that I'm one of the first in my family to attend a 4-year university right after high school. A couple of programs that I am a part of on campus are GANAS, MAPS where I am a mentor for both, and the La Casa Latina Student Center as a student programming assistant. I also like going camping!

What I love about PSU: It's in the city!



Emma Daniels She/her/hers | Psychology Major

I love to learn and put myself in positions that challenge me and push me to grow. I was involved in Student Council all four years of high school, sometimes holding more than one position, and ending as President. I am very reliable, and I'm often the person that people go to when they need help. I am studying to be an academic advisor, and I want to help others discover what their dreams are and help them plan out their path. I can do a lap in an Olympic size pool in one breath.

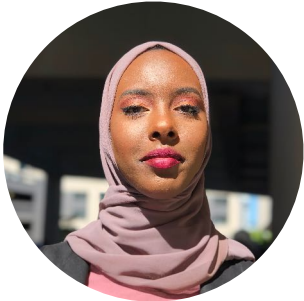
What I love about PSU: The incredibly diverse population.



David Hoang He/him/his | Political Science Major

I am going into my second year at PSU as a Political Science major. I still don't know if I want to stick with the major, neither do I know what I want to do after graduation. What I do know about myself is that I love interacting with the community. I spent this summer as an Orientation Leader, and I currently volunteer with Maybelle Center. I also help plan meetings for Mixed Me here on campus. I am excited to challenge myself this year and allow myself to grow in ways I never thought could happen. I cannot drive and not sure if I ever will.

What I love about PSU: I can control my own learning.



Habiba Ibrahim She/her/hers | Pre-clinical Science Major, Spanish & Biology Minors

I am unique, because I am an immigrant who moved here at a young age and was able to envision and accomplish a lifestyle I always dreamed of. As a Black, Muslim female, I have overcome obstacles that I can now look back at and see strength. I hope to share that strength with my patients by finishing college and medical school, and I can also speak three languages.

What I love about PSU: I love the campus and resources available to students.



Marian Ibrahim She/her/hers | Health and Science Major, Chemistry & Business Minors

I am proud to be a college student and hold an officer position in the Pre-dental student Organization at PSU. As I want to become a dentist for my future career, it is important that I surround myself with people that have similar interests as me. In addition, as a first generation student I find it helpful to be part of communities that can be a network of support for me. I can speak three languages, and English is my third.

What I love about PSU: Its welcoming environment.



Kaylee Ixcolin She/her/hers | Social Work Major, Spanish Minor

I am a first-generation college student who is the first in my family to graduate high school. Education is something that means so much to me, because my family has never had the same opportunities that I have had the privilege of achieving. I have been fortunate to be an Orientation Leader and have met so many new students, many who have become friends. I volunteer at the Women's Resource Center as a Student Support Specialist where I learned a lot about confidential advocacy work and crisis support. I love to support people. My long-term goal is to finish my undergrad and then go into the PSU Master's of Social Work. I love to make secret handshakes with all of my friends.

What I love about PSU: It's in Portland, where I have lived for my entire life.



Ann Jeline Manabat She/her/hers | Health Sciences Major

I transferred two years ago from the beautiful island of Saipan located in the Northern Mariana archipelago. I seek opportunities within the realm of research, which led me to join programs such as Child Health Assessment in the Pacific (CHAP), Build Exito, and Ronald E. McNair's research programs. In the past, I have worked as a front desk receptionist at a growing clinic on my island, and currently, I work as a research assistant at PSU's Institute on Aging, where I am able to learn about the aging population. My long-term goal is working in the public health sector focusing on maternal and child health and minority ethnic and racial groups. Since returning to Saipan during remote learning, I've gone swimming at the beach every week.

What I love about PSU: the vast opportunities offered to diverse students.



Cassandra Mathieson She/her/hers | Clinical Health Sciences Major

I am a non traditional student and the first in my family to attend college. I have two children and work full time in addition to my studies. I hope to become a practicing physician to increase accessibility to responsible care for marginalized groups. Pre-covid, I was a karaoke queen!

What I love about PSU: I feel welcomed even though I'm not 18 and living on campus.



Yuman Ng He/him/his | Biology Major, Sociology Minor

I am a senior at PSU majoring in Biology and Sociology, and a University Studies Peer mentor as well as a member of the S-Stem program. I have worked with Dr. Suzanne Estes and Dr. Faalava as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar the past year. I have the future goal of becoming a medical doctor and researcher. Something interesting I've done was performance theater and was on a playwright committee.

What I love about PSU: Its warm and supportive people!



Japhety Ngabireyimana He/Him/His | Marketing Major

Coming to the U.S. from Tanzania, I spoke no English. I have been able to overcome that challenge, and now I am the first generation in my family to go to college. I am a Co-founder of Happiness Family Farm and am also the president of the Men's Basketball Clubs. Even with all my challenges that I have faced during my uprising I know I am bigger than the worst thing that has happened to me. My main goal is to get a strong background in Marketing and Business Administration, which will help me cultivate skills needed to get my dream job working for Nike and start a training gym. Specifically, I would like to share my experience of being a Black professional in the sports industry and give back to youth in my community and globally. I like playing basketball and trying new things.

What I love about PSU: The different opportunities it provides.



Nhu-Y Dang Nguyen She/her/hers | Business Marketing Major

I'm proud to graduate from De La Salle North Catholic High School as one of the valedictorians this year. Volunteering at many women's organizations helped me become a more decisive leader in school and life. I have participated in many leadership conferences, in which I had my GIRLS 101 club to educate my peers about women's empowerment. My long term goals are to keep on pursuing higher education and have my own company. In the future, I want to give back to my community and help my home country, Vietnam. I was born in Nha Trang, Vietnam, and I don't like chocolate, cinnamon, or anything bitter.

What I love about PSU: Its environment and diversity.



Sequoia Oar She/her/hers | Applied Linguistics & German Majors, TESOL Certificate

I am the Co-President of SOAL, and after completing my undergraduate degree, I hope to pursue a Master's in Germanic Linguistics at UC Berkeley. I plan to participate in the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program. My dream job involves traveling and building bridges between linguistically and culturally disparate communities. I hope to one day become a teacher, whether it be as a professor of linguistics, foreign language teacher, ESL/EFL instructor, or an educator at a school for diplomats' children. I am a very crafty person; I love to sew, knit, crochet, craft unique greeting cards, do instant film photography, and pen pal with friends both in the United States and abroad. When I was in middle school, I guest starred as Sammy the Clown on a local television show called Annie Airplane.

What I love about PSU: They are an equal opportunity university



Aisha Osman She/her/hers | Political Science Major, Spanish and Arabic Minors

I am proud of having the opportunity of meeting President Obama back in 2016. This was an absolutely amazing experience. I am currently the Multicultural Affairs Director at ASPSU. I enjoy writing poetry, although I haven't done it in a while.

What I love about PSU: I am accepted for who I am.



Lucifer-Kason O'Connor They/them/theirs | Sociology Major

My long term goal is to open a boarding school for homeless LGBTQ youth in Texas. I was a member of LSAMP for three and a half years and am a former EXITO scholar. I am a community mentor for trans and nonbinary youth, and I've sat on countless panels on a variety of topics including but not limited to: being a POC, being trans and queer, and being a QTPOC. I have a cat named Kilo and used to have a snake named Baz'l.

What I love about PSU: I am graduating at the end of this term.



Destiny Magana-Pablo She/her/hers | Political Science Major, Criminology & Criminal Justice Minor, Urban Honors College

I'm a first-generation Mexican-American college student. My family comes from a small indigenous town called Carapan, Michoacán, México. I'm proud of successfully enrolling myself in university and organizing a term to study abroad in Europe. I am the co-chair of the CRC Advisory Council and the La Casa Latina student-at-large representative. I've previously participated in PSU Day at the Capitol, and I grew up as the oldest sibling in a single-parent household. I enjoy continuous home projects, animal care, hosting girls night with my aunts, and cooking traditional dishes during my free time. My birthday is on April Fools Day, and I've never broken a bone in my body.

What I love about PSU: It gave me incredible flexibility and new opportunities.



Jessica Palmer She/her/hers | Business Major, Art Practices Minor

My greatest achievement is the love of my family and friends, without their support I would not be here today. How I ended up at Portland State University (a huge achievement) starts in 2017, at the age of 34, I proudly received my G.E.D. with honors. In 2018, I was a proud recipient of the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship which allowed me to study abroad in Costa Rica - that experience has been foundational to opening my eyes to the world of possibilities I am capable of. In 2019 I graduated at Clackamas Community College with my A.A.S. in Early Childhood Education and Family Studies with honors. I love the ocean and plan to circumnavigate the world with my small family upon graduation!

What I love about PSU: the location, the professors, the DRC, the PSU sailing team, and the PEAS!



Laura Lachino-Pinon She/her/hers | Criminology/Criminal Justice Majors

I am a Mexican-American freshman at Portland State. I used to be a part of the MEChA club, and helped organize club events. My goal is to graduate from Portland State with a Bachelor's degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. I love going on walks in cold weather.

What I love about PSU: I love PSU because of its diversity.



Helena Sai She/her/hers | Psychology Major

I am working towards becoming a clinical psychologist and conducting research into the mental health of the BIPOC community- not only in America but in other countries as well. I want to work to unravel the mystique that hovers around mental illness and try to make getting mental healthcare people need more accessible. Currently I am a Resident Assistant within student housing, working with the Cultural Resource Centers on the programming team, and a part of the BUILD EXITO program. A fun fact about me is that I have written a few fiction novels.

What I love about PSU: It supports me when I need it most.



Kenyn Davila Samayoa He/him/his | Marketing Major

One of my biggest achievements has been the amount of career exploration I've done over the past two years. I'm an introverted person; there have been many times where I've put myself outside my comfort zone to experience moments I probably wouldn't have otherwise. I've also done a lot of volunteering around Portland through Potluck at the Park and working with children at William Walker Elementary. I'm very proud to have received a leadership position as a mentor for the Diversity Scholarship Program. One of my long term goals right now is to work for a large apparel company such as Nike or Adidas. I enjoy nature because there's something special about being out in nature, it's both soothing and relaxing.

What I love about PSU: It's not like your typical university.



Anwar Sheikh He/him/his | Public Health Studies: Pre-Clinical Health Science Major

I am a proud Muslim, Somali-American that wants to do his best to make those close to me proud. I was the ASB president of the largest high school in Oregon. I was also a part of the student council and school board attempting to make changes to better the education of my peers. Currently, I am a part of both Access and Diversity programs for the Multicultural Retention Services here at PSU. My goal is to be able to provide a good example for those to follow and see that they can achieve anything they wish too. I was born in California.

What I love about PSU: It provides a safe and welcoming space for people of all kinds.



Avneet Sidhu She/her/hers | Political Science Major

I'm currently the founding chapter president of our College Democrats club on campus and member of the Diversity Scholarship Program. I was an elected delegate to the DNC this past summer, and led field incentives in two congressional districts in Kansas. I led a juvenile justice program called Youth Court for three years and was part of the team to transition Youth Court into a county wide program. My hopes are to someday pursue a JD or PhD, and to contribute to increasing the presence of marginalized folk within academia. I was born in India and came to America as a baby.

What I love about PSU: I love PSU because the diverse atmosphere makes me feel recognized and supported.



Hoda Veshagh She/her/hers | General Science Major

This past academic year I was an intern for Pre-Pharmacy Student Association. I'm currently the volunteer coordinator for the Pre-Pharmacy Student Association. I was a mentor for the American Medical Women's Association, and for this academic year I'm the finance manager for the organization. Over this past summer I worked as an Orientation Leader. Since I began studying at PSU fall of 2018 I also started volunteering at OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital on a weekly basis until now. My long-term goal consists of becoming a successful pharmacist. I love languages and currently speak English, Farsi, Dari (dialect of Farsi), French, Targhi (spoken in a very small village in Iran), and some Arabic.

What I love about PSU: It is very diverse and full of opportunities for leadership positions.



Amirali Veshagh He/him/his | Biology Major, Chemistry Minor

Throughout my time at PSU I have had many jobs; being a tutor, orientation leader, student coordinator, and more. I have been involved in student groups such as the Arab Persian student association and the Institute for Health Care Improvement. My goal is to attend medical school and become a neurologist so I can study what I love and help my community. There have been many ups and downs in my time as a college student, but I am proud of myself for sticking with it and participating as much as I can. My dream is to live on a farm one day.

What I love about PSU: I can be myself here!



AmandaLyn Wayland They/them/theirs | Applied Linguistics & English Majors

I am proud that I was able to graduate high school early in the midst of mental health issues and the passing of my only parent two years earlier. I am thankful for the chance to be in Alpha Gamma Sigma (a community college honor society in California) as a sophomore since it encouraged me to give back to my community through programs I had personally benefited from in the past. I am so fortunate to be able to pursue a degree in two majors that give me so much joy. As a little kid, words and writing were some of the only means I had to occupy my time; as an adult, I see now how words connect us on a larger level and span unimaginable distances through both time and space. I live on a peninsula that is officially part of Washington state, but is only physically connected to Canada.

What I love about PSU: There is so much support, diversity, and a love of learning here.