

PSU Salutes Waddah Sofan '05



John Hakanson
Student
Advancement Award
Waddah K. Sofan '05
Currently Graduate Student:
Conflict Resolution

"Taking barriers and turning them into bridges"

Waddah Sofan is highly involved at the campus, community, state, national and global level. He tirelessly advocates for people with disabilities and brings daily awareness to understanding diversity. He often speaks of his experiences as a Palestinian under Israeli Occupation. He moved to the United States and enrolled at Portland State University. He successfully finished his undergraduate degree in Information Systems and is currently working on his graduate degree in Conflict Resolution.

Waddah works on every campus project to make a long-term impact on the campus. Recent examples of this include:

- Organizing, creating funding, finding space for Arab-Persian Student Organization
- Creating the first ever PSU Wheelchair basketball league at the Stott Center that also serves the Portland Community
- Serving as a consultant for disabilities through the construction of the new student recreation center
- Assisted in working with the Presidents Office to officially recognize International Day of Persons with Disabilities at PSU
- co-founded an organization to support Palestinian refugees with social services, training and educational opportunities.

Getting to know Waddah...

Most treasured possession

Is my relationship with my family and the community which I belong too

Favorite cause

Providing equal social justice for Palestinian cause.

Person most interested in meeting

Someone I really want to meet and talk too is Edward Saied (a Palestinian scholar and author).

Most important lesson learned

Not always what you wish you get.

Mentors

Hala Gores (A Palestinian lawyer and peace activist)

Goal yet to be achieved

An advocate for peace and to end the conflict in the Middle East.



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