

Kadi Rae Smith

Portland State University, Honors College

PROFILE

I am a **neurodiverse** student with ADHD and dyslexia. I have neurological anomalies due to “long-haul” Covid. I study Psychology and Neuroscience in the Honors College at PSU, focusing on behavioral neuroscience within the neurodiverse community with the goal of increasing the **accessibility** of STEM curricula and fields for neurodiverse people within culturally and socioeconomically marginalized communities. While attending PCC I worked as **research assistant** and did **student outreach**, teaching self-advocacy to fellow students and linking them with resources, in order to promote awareness around learning differences that are often obfuscated due to class, race, and gender inequity. I earned 94 credits within a year at PCC and maintained a 4.0 GPA while working jobs as well as volunteering in my community.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PSU McNair Scholar (2023) / *Mentor - C.K. Miller, PhD*

PSU Honors Thesis (2023-24) / *Mentor - Bill Griesar, PhD*

Oregon NASA Space Consortium STARR Award Scholar (2022 - 2023) / *Mentors - Barbara Miller, Julia Betts*

PCC STEM Student Research & Outreach Coordinator (2022 - 2023) / *Advising Faculty - Julia Betts*

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Artist, Instructor, Social Services - Textile Artist, Painter, Weaver, Set Designer

2000 - Present

Teaching children how to repurpose materials and turn garbage into art through volunteering at Arts & Parts camp in Queens, NY. Making visual art out of found materials, making soundscapes and alternate environments.

Skill-sharing with **elderly** people, teaching technological literacy and opening dialogs on social adaptations, learning gardening and textile working skills.

Cutting hair for a **local houseless community** to improve employment opportunities and break down stigma surrounding touch that is often comorbid with houselessness. Teaching children neuroscience with the non-profit outreach organization NW Noggin.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Multimedia Designer - FedEx Office, Wyant Co, PCC, PSU, Independent Contractor

2002 - Present

Designing (digital and manual) various templates for both professional and personal use, logo creation, digital conversion of projects, utilizing the Adobe software suite.

Managing inventory and scheduling,

Trouble-shooting technology for students and staff, assisting with online

Hiring and **training** new employees and fostering a team environment.

Creating informational campaigns for student awareness of beneficial services at their disposal.

Fostering relationships with clients/faculty and **coordinating events** via email, video conferencing, social media platforms and phone correspondence on a daily and weekly basis.

Event Coordinator - Cactus Late Night, Caffe Destino, Beech St. Parlor, Turn Turn Turn, High Water Mark, Tonic Lounge, No Fun bar, Boogies Burgers, Funhouse Lounge
2012 - 2020

Coordinated and **promoted** events, ran sound tech, bartended, ran the door and lights, handled financials (getting artists paid).

Created menus, grew produce, and prepared designer foods and beverages, bartended and served.

Designed alternate spaces within existing venues, such as large scale backdrops, interior/exterior lighting, props, etc, for visual and auditory performances and installations.

Produced, performed, and hosted music and comedy shows.

HONORS & AWARDS

- Oregon NASA Space Consortium STARR Award Scholar
- PSU McNair Scholar
- PSU Neuroscience Club
- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
- Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society
- Tau Sigma National Honor Society
- 2023 Society For Neuroscience Conference - Poster Presenter
- 2023 Congressional Neuroscience Caucus - Research Presenter/Advocate
- PCC & PSU President's List

EDUCATION

Portland State University, Honors College - Student (full-time)

2022 - Present / Junior Standing / 4.0 GPA

Portland Community College, Cascade - Former Student & Employee

2021 - 2022 / Attained AA & AS / 4.0 GPA

SKILLS

Adaptation - recognizing, visualizing and implementing change where needed, when necessary.

Community Building & Advocation - listening to and assessing communal needs and teaching skills of self-advocacy and communal development.

Resource Management - assessing needs, locating and allocating resources (e.g. desert and inner-city conservational gardening, low-income resource pooling, ride-share organizing, etc.).

Organization & Communication - fostering multicultural and multigenerational interconnectedness, organizing and bridging communal gaps.

Observation & Critical Analysis - observing and researching information and

EXTRACURRICULAR INTERESTS

Cactus Late Night: I created a **pop-up restaurant & bar** that combines the love of food and flavors, featuring infused spirits, old family recipes made into a basic menu. I set up shop in cafes after hours, music festivals, and a variety of other locations.

Music Projects:

- JAN JEANETTE / I sing, play drums and orchestrate musical pieces with Julian Snow.
- LO GLO / I orchestrate, sing and play drums in this experimental ambient duo.
- NOCHMAL / I play drums, sing and make texture loops in this improv ensemble.
- ORO AZORO / I sing, play keys through pedals, and write all the songs in this lo-fi pop duo.
- VOO VOL / I sing, play bass, and compose in this experimental rock duo.