#### The Portland Observer

# Miss Black Oregon USA

#### UO graduate shines light on achievement gap

A University of Oregon graduate student from the Portland suburban community of Forest Grove has been named Miss Black Oregon USA 2010.

"I believe education is our celebration of identity and comgreatest tool for advancement and improving equity in this country," said Herinckx. "We must prioritize our youth to be active and

munity, and emphasizes that Miss Black Oregon is a service based, grassroots organization and not a beauty pageant. Miss Black U.S.A. Pageant celebrates scholastic achievement and promotes education and leadership by providing scholarships opportunities

> to young women of color. "The Crowning Event" was Feb. 28 in Portland. Delegates competed in five categories: personal interview, health and fitness, talent, evening gown and a question/answer segment.

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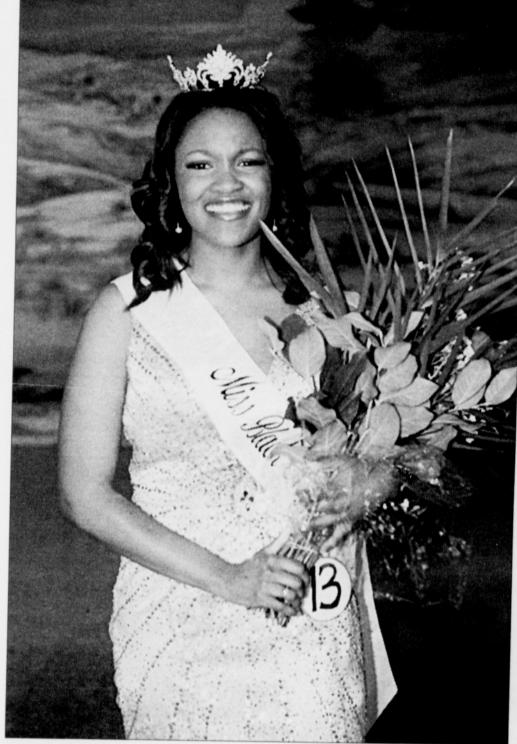


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Kari Herinckx, a graduate student at the University of Oregon, is crowned Miss Black Oregon.

Kari Herinckx will represent the state at the national Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant in Washington, D.C., this summer, competing for a \$10,000 scholar- Herinckx led a number of camship.

of the Family and Human Services program. She also earned a Bach- Institutional Equity and Diversity elor of Arts degree in ethnic studies. She is currently a graduate student at the College of Educa- at UO including vice president of tion, studying teacher education with an emphasis on curriculum rector of the Multicultural Center and instruction.

petition addressed the academic versity of Oregon. In the future, achievement gap and the necessity for schools and educators to prioritize teaching culturally relevant meaningful pedagogies to students.

conscious citizens, while instilling the values and diligence of those who came before us."

Through various positions, paigns around issues of social Herinckx is a 2009 UO graduate justice at the University of Oregon and works for the Office of and the Service Learning Program.

She held leadership positions the Black Student Union, co-diand multicultural advocate for the Herinckx's platform for the com- Associated Students of the Unishe hopes to teach social studies in a middle school or high school before continuing a career in education policy.

Herinckx describes the win as a

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