

## Portland's Financial Fair: Get on Solid Fiscal Ground

By Talia Kahn-Kravis  
InnovativeChanges.org

While the sun is blaring and skies are blue in those glorious months of Portland summer, it's important not to forget about the future. The near future when kids may be returning to school or a bit further down the line, when energy bills are higher and the holidays are nearing. Or, even longer term, when you or someone in your family wants to get a

walking distance from the Gateway/99th Ave Transit Center and Max Stop

### Workshop Schedule:

- 10:15-11:00 am – Banking made easy
- 11:15 -12:00 pm – Paying for school-student loans and financial aid
- 12:15-1:00 pm – All about credit
- 1:15-2:00 pm – Credit Builder Loan Orientation
- 2:15- 3:00 pm – Budgeting for the school year and beyond

At this free Financial Fair on Saturday, Aug. 23, you can attend workshops, meet with a professional financial planner or sit down with a credit expert

college degree, buy a home or retire. No matter how near or far these events may be, having a financial plan that incorporates all of your life goals is crucial. And, whether you are a goal-setter officianado or a novice, it can be helpful to have someone with experience to guide you through developing a plan for realizing those goals. Enter: the Portland Financial Fair.

At this day long free Financial Fair on Saturday, August 23rd from 10am-3pm, you can attend workshops, meet with a professional financial planner or sit down with a credit expert to review your free credit report. In addition, there will be raffles for gift cards, refreshments, kid-friendly activities and access to other community resources.

The Portland Financial Fairs are collaboration of community organizations and the Financial Planners Association intended to increase access to unbiased and trustworthy financial information. The events are held on a quarterly basis in different neighborhoods around Portland. This one will be held at the Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization's Africa House on 631 NE 102nd Avenue, Portland.

Make this the time that you get in control of your finances and your financial future!

**When:** Saturday, August 23rd, 2014, from 10am-3pm

**Where:** IRCO African House, 631 NE 102nd Ave, Portland OR

**Public Transit:** located

ALL DAY – Meet with a credit expert to review your free annual credit report

ALL DAY – Meet with a financial planner to make a plan that works for you!

For more information about the Portland Financial Fairs visit: [www.innovativechanges.org](http://www.innovativechanges.org).

*This event is organized by: Bradley Angle, Department of Consumer and Business Services, Innovative Changes, Financial Planning Association of Oregon and SW Washington, Metropolitan Family Service, REACH CDC, and IRCO. This event is funded in part with a grant from the Foundation for Financial Planning.*

## Franklin Student at Princeton



PHOTO BY HELEN SILVIS

Ahmed Gedi, right, and his father Dawood Mohamed.

By Helen Silvis  
Of The Skanner News

Franklin High School student Ahmed Gedi was one of just two Oregon high school students selected for the prestigious LEDA scholars program at Princeton University this summer. LEDA, short for Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America, aims to help gifted students from low-income backgrounds attend top colleges and universities.

"I definitely got a taste of college life," Gedi says. "They wanted us to get experience writing the types of papers you write at college. And I ended up pulling three all-nighters to make sure I got my work done."

The entering senior spent seven weeks on the Princeton campus learning about colleges, financial aid, and academic research and writing. Classes lasted 5 hours, and the students were expected to be up by 6 a.m.

"They told us it would be a rigorous workload and it really was," Gedi says. "We had 100-page readings some nights and we had to write 1,200-word essays. I feel this program really helped me get ready to go."

Still despite the boot camp atmosphere, he says, the group had fun and bonded.

"I made 60 of the best friends I've ever had, this summer," he says.

Originally from Somalia, Gedi's

parents fled the war zone in the 1990s and applied to the United Nations for refugee resettlement from Damascus, Syria.

"We had a life, businesses and restaurants in Somalia," says Gedi's father Dawood Mohamed. "But when the war started everything was destroyed. We ran away because we didn't want to be killed."

Ahmed was born in Damascus in 1996, the family's second child after his elder sister Mako. Then in 2000 they learned they had been accepted for resettlement in Portland.

"We were lucky; we got America," Ahmed says. "And my parents always told me, 'You can go a long way with education in America.'"

In Portland, Gedi's father worked in a warehouse before getting a job as a taxi driver, his current position. biggest supporter, Gedi says. Sister Mako, now 20, also worked hard in school and won a Gates Millennium scholarship in 2012. Mako is a pre-med student in her junior year at Lewis & Clark College.

Gedi says he still speaks Somali fluently because the family speak it at home. But he's also fluent in the computer languages, html, css and python. He credits the MESA (Maths, Engineering and Science Achievement) program for igniting his interest in computer science and helping propel him toward a career in computing.

Gedi started studying robotics through the MESA program, when he was a middle school student.

"They taught us about coding," he says. "I thought that was really cool and I started studying computer science on my own time."

In his sophomore year at Franklin High School, Gedi and his science partner Dustin Diep entered a digital design competition. They decided to make a musical hat, so they cut some holes for speakers, rigged up a control for an mp3 player hidden inside the hat. Then they loaded up a collection of songs including: Twist and Shout; My Generation; and the then-current hit Gangnam Style.

"I thought this is so awesome that you can do this with code," he says.

At high school the awards kept coming. Gedi and Franklin's MESA club entered the 2012-13 MESA Day competition. They made a prosthetic arm, which came in second in the toss challenge, and first overall.

Gedi coordinates student technical activities at Franklin and also volunteers at Providence Portland Medical Center one day a week.

Gedi says several Oregon schools are among the 20 schools on his list.

"I want to be a software developer," he says. "I know careers in that field are expanding, and I just want to see how far I can go with this. If it involves computers or coding, I am happy."

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