

Changed by Culture

I'm going to write this part about myself, which in some ways is selfish, but I feel like it makes sense. To start, I wasn't born in this town, let alone this state, but when I got here, I fell so in love with the culture in this town that I feel like I've broken barriers. I moved to Woodburn when I was 5 years old, and was put with the greatest teacher I have ever met in my life, Rosa Floyd, and she has changed my life.

I started dancing when I was 5 years old, and I'm now 15 and still doing it to this day. This last weekend, I danced at the cultural festival in downtown Woodburn for the Cinco de Mayo celebration. And people have been shocked to see a white kid dance in a Mexican town with mostly Mexican people, and I can't even count how many compliments I've gotten for doing it, and it warms my heart everytime.

The opportunities that I've gotten through this are endless: three Blazer games, dance in front of Governor Kate Brown at the presentation of Mrs. Floyd's teacher of the year award, and even on Monday dancing at the capitol building in front of senators. When you look at me, a white kid in a Hispanic town you probably would think I'm a little bit of an outsider, but I've been changed by the culture, and I'm so grateful for it.

