

It is my pleasure to introduce **Kiros Bailey**. He arrived in America in 2016, having fled the country of Eritrea, located in the Horn of Africa region of Eastern Africa. The only boy in a family of seven, he knew his future under Eritrea's dictatorial government would severely limit his ambitions and dreams.

He first met his future wife in Israel, and the road to Seattle was paved through the process of integrating his new family. Kiros first attended Seattle Central College and studied to become a medical assistant. Just as his healthcare career was getting started, he realized his true goal was to become a nurse. North Seattle was the closest college to his home, and he decided to go back to school and major in Nursing. After finishing his nursing prerequisites this spring at North, Kiros will transfer to a four-year university to complete his BSN.

Fluent in four languages — Hebrew, Tigrinya, Amharic and English — he has worked hard to fulfill his goals. While being a full-time student this past year, he has also held down a job delivering food for Instacart. The father of three boys, Kiros knows being a role model is important as his family grows up.

Please join me in congratulating Kiros, the 2022 McKinney Scholar.