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What I'm Into: Deidre Howard, 22, 2009 Miss Black Iowa USA

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Eric Rowley/Juice

Deidre Howard, 22.

by **cara hall**
juice staff writer

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Deidre Howard lived in Mississippi and Oklahoma before moving to Des Moines to attend Drake University four years ago. In addition to being crowned Miss Iowa Juneteenth and Miss Black Iowa USA (she'll compete for Miss Black USA in July in Washington, D.C.), she hosts the opening ceremonies of the I'll Make Me a World in Iowa's education day Friday at the Polk County Convention Complex.

"It's an asset to the city of Des Moines," Howard said of the event, which started in 1998 to celebrate African-American contributions to arts and culture. "People outside the black community as well appreciate the opportunity to learn and embrace black culture."

RESTAURANTS Thai Flavors, Ohana Steakhouse.

MUSIC I like jazz and neo soul music. My friends call it elevator music.

MOVIES. "American History X" and "Men of Honor" are two of my favorites.

READING I just started reading a book called "God Behaving Badly," by Marie Phillips.

POLITICS I was involved in the Obama campaign. Recently a friend called and told me there was a picture of me in Essence magazine at one of his rallies. I went to the store and bought it and there I was.

WORKING WITH YOUTH When I was at Drake I started the Back to School Bash. Greek organizations, nonprofits and Drake teamed up and gave away school supplies and there was a carnival and a basketball tournament. I realized the importance of education for children and finding a place for them in the realm of society.

:: I'll Make Me a World in Iowa

What it is: A two-day celebration of African-American contributions to arts and culture, featuring performances, displays and entertainment. Headliners include actress Vivica Fox and musician Howard Hewett.

When: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday (education day), 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday

Where: Polk County Convention Complex, 501 Grand Ave.

Info: worldiniowa.com

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