

The Remarkable Story of

Rukaya Alrubaye

10:00 am • Thursday, March 28

UARM Ouachita Center



Rukaya Alrubaye is an inspiring scholar with a remarkable story. Born in Iraq and moving to the United States when she was only two years old, Rukaya has worked tirelessly to achieve her dreams and to help her community. Currently a medical student at the UMKC School of Medicine, Rukaya is pursuing a highly competitive six-year combined B.A./M.D. degree, one of two programs in the nation. In addition to her academic pursuits, Rukaya is a passionate advocate for her community and beyond. She was nominated by her peers on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour to be the Arkansas Youth Leadership Council Delegate, which led to her becoming the NRECA youth spokesperson. As the spokesperson, she spoke to nearly 10,000 cooperative directors and CEO's at their annual meeting in Nashville. During the event, Rukaya's inspiring story moved the audience to give her not one but two standing ovations. In May 2023, she was invited to the White House to attend the launch event for the USDA's Rural Utilities Service's Inflation Reduction Act programs. Rukaya's passion for prevention efforts and community service is unwavering. She has won numerous awards for her advocacy work, including the 2022 National Youth Advocate of the Year Award from Tobacco Free Kids. Rukaya has spoken with the FDA and state officials to advocate for a healthier future and currently serves as a Board Member for Tobacco 21, a national campaign working to raise the minimum legal age for tobacco and nicotine sales to 21. Her efforts have not gone unnoticed, as she won the 2021 Outstanding Youth award from the Arkansas Prevention Network. Rukaya's dedication to bettering the world around her serves as an inspiration to us all.



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