Screen shows white background with orange and black OSU-OKC and Diversi-FIVE Portraits logos. Two lines of black text below the logos read, “Student Portrait: Brenda Ddamba.” Small video camera view of Emily and Brenda in the upper right-hand corner of the screen with each having their own video camera window stacked vertically on top of each other. Emily has short blue hair and is wearing a gray blouse, and Brenda has short black hair and is wearing an orange shirt. White background is present throughout the video.

**EMILY:** Hey everyone, this is Emily from the OSU-OKC Disability Services and Diversity Office. Welcome to another of our Diversi-FIVE Portraits series, where we get to talk with students of diverse, wonderful, and vibrant backgrounds. For accessibility we've got a descriptive transcript of this Diversi-FIVE Portraits posted right above the link to this video. Today we've got one of our amazing students with us, Brenda Ddamba. Welcome, Brenda.

**BRENDA:** Thank you, Emily.

**EMILY:** So start off by telling us about yourself.

**BRENDA:** Well, my name is Brenda Ddamba. I am a new grad from OSU-OKC RN, and I got my license. I'm grateful to be here today. I am a married woman and with four children, and I come from East Africa, Uganda, to be precise. My mom and siblings, my parents told me to be--to treasure education and to be competitive, and never to let my dream go away like that. So I--that is one reason why I had to move all the way and come and explore this world and yeah, to come on and achieve my dream. Precisely. And I took the first step and I don't think I'm going to stop there. So yeah, that's me.

**EMILY:** That's a really cool word that you used, "explore." I sometimes I don't think people realize how powerful the word that that is.

**BRENDA:** It is, it is.

**EMILY:** So tell us what inspires you?

**BRENDA:** Well, like I said my family inspires me. As a young kid, I always love to study and I saw my big brothers and sisters struggle a lot to study and they achieved a lot. So when I got married, my husband came here and he was he struggled through undergrad and his graduate school to raise a family and to and to study. So when I looked at him, I was like, "Why not, I can also do it!" So he inspired me a lot. My family inspired me a lot. My children. I had babies when I was in school. So they kept on inspiring me. I was like, "I can do it with kids," and I did it. So every time I look at my family, they inspire me to go further. They are my number one champion challengers. Yeah. They challenge me and they push me forward. So thank you.

**EMILY:** And something tells me that, you know, down the line when you graduate and have your next dream job, that your kids are going to look at you and I think in turn that you're going to inspire them too. That's super cool.

**BRENDA:** They do, they do.

**EMILY:** So what are some of the most important diversity and inclusion issues that you feel our society is facing today?

**BRENDA:** Well, I think our society is facing, I think to me it's about being open minded. Our society is lagging behind in that in that corner. When you are open minded, you explore, like I say, you explore a lot, you find out so much that so much about this world that you didn't know. If you just step out of your comfort zone and just to look around what you don't know, it is really great. Like I say, I left my native country. I didn't know there's another world that existed, but I had to step out of my comfort zone and came all the way and I open. I was open minded to know more about the cultures and all that. So if our people, our students, our peers, just step out of their comfort zone, be open minded about what is going on, the cultures, the reli--like anything outside their known it will be great because at the end of the day, it's about what we all contribute to the table to help our communities, our employers and all that strive higher. So I think it's a great thing to know.

**EMILY:** That's a great point. And I think, you know, like how else could we find out you know, how much that each person or each wonderful new thing contributes to the table if we don't kind of step out of the comfort zone and explore that?

**BRENDA:** Exactly. Exactly. And what you don't know, I know it. And what I don't know, you know it, so it's about what we bring at the table at the end of the day. So step out of your comfort zone.

**EMILY:** Awesome, awesome, awesome. Wise words, wise words indeed. So, Brenda, we're so glad to have you on Diversi-FIVE Portraits and most importantly, we're so happy to have you as part of the OSU-OKC family. And we’re so proud of you and proud of your accomplishments.

**BRENDA:** Thank you Emily for having me today.

**EMILY:** It's my pleasure. So, friends, would you like to be one of our Diversi-FIVE Portraits guests? Let's connect! Reach out to me, and I would love to hear from you. Until then, take care and be well.