

## HCC Foundation Scholarship Recipient Prisca Nziango

I was fortunate enough to come to America in 2006 at the age of 10 and I had a chance to have great opportunities to change my life. When I graduated from Normal Community High School I started looking for which college I needed to attend. There was no doubt in my mind that Heartland was the right place for me. Heartland offered a solid one-on-one relationship between professors and students. I can honestly testify that Heartland's instructors truly cared for their students. They showed their compassion and willingness to help their students all the time. I admire Professor Lisa Kellison who teaches Computer Applications for Business for going above and beyond to help me understand the material in her class when I was lost at times. We kept emailing each other from 7 at night until 1 in the morning just because she wanted me to fully understand what was going on and I was dedicated to learn. This is the kind of instructors that Heartland offers and I am grateful to have such experience. My aspiration is to become a certified public accountant. I am interested in this field because I have always enjoyed learning math ever since I was young. Having an accounting degree is useful in every career. I would like to work in one of the Fortune 500 companies. I want to get my Associate Degree in Science from Heartland Community College and transfer to Illinois State University to get my Bachelor in Accounting and CPA Certification. As a daughter of immigrant parents paying for school out of pocket is almost impossible. Both of my parents are students at Illinois State University. My family and I truly understand what it means to be part of the American culture. We take advantage of every great opportunity that comes our way to better our future and to live the American dream. I want every donor to know that his or her contribution to the Heartland Foundation makes a great impact in the lives of people that they do not even know. I know that thanks to you every student in this room tonight is able to pursue his or her educational dream. I particularly will be forever thankful that someone believed in my dream enough to help me take the first step towards it. I hope Heartland Foundation Scholarship will continue to change students' lives. Merci. Thank you. [applause]