

HCC Foundation Scholarship Recipient Joseph Wei

My inspiration. My experiences with my health focused my interest in medical science and nursing care. There was one nurse who changed my life during those years. Her name was Sarah and she worked as a nurse in dialysis clinic. Every day she would greet us with a smile and genuinely cared what was going on in our lives. She would listen if we were having problems in our lives and wanting to stop treatments and just give up. A couple of years after I started treatments she was gone for a few weeks. Upon her return to the clinic she would greet us with the same smile we have gotten used to. But something was different. Later on I found out she lost a child in an accident and took some personal time off. I ended up asking her why she came back to work so soon and her response was something I will never forget. She said, "I lost someone in a tragedy I had no control over. But everyone here is also family and I can do something for them." I chose to attend Heartland Community College because it is a great school, a great community of educators and students. Coming back to school without a primary degree was tough but Heartland admissions and staff made emergence back into collegiate environment seamless. It gave me hope and insight on how to pursue my goals of receiving my Associates Degree in Nursing. As well as information to advance toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I wouldn't be alive today if it hadn't been for my nurses and the other role models I strived to emulate in the transition into becoming a nurse. I extend in my profession the same level of caring and nurturing that was shown to me during the most difficult time period in my life. I am committed to excellence in my education so I can bring my future patients the quality of care I received. My goal after graduation is to find a placement working as a nephrology nurse. The job of a nephrology nurse focuses on people undergoing kidney failure and kidney disease. I would like to pass down the compassion and care that was provided to me to others in the same condition. In times of suffering one can only dream of seizing back one's life. In closing, I want to thank Pamela Campbell and Donnie Bounds as well as the other donors who make these scholarships possible. Without you I wouldn't have the chance to pursue this dream I feel so passionately about. Thank you again for the generosity and support you provide students for living their dreams. [applause]