



Christine Dao
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Thank you, Mr. Broad for that kind introduction.

I stand here today with Eli Broad, superintendents from across the nation and all of you distinguished guests because I worked hard in school – not because of my family’s social status.

Neither of my parents attended college, and my father works as a janitor. Every Sunday, I have worked at his side, often until 2 in the morning. From him I learned the value of hard work and the importance of a college education.

Education was always very important to my family. When my parents came to this country from Vietnam, they knew that education was the key to giving me and my brother the opportunities to become whatever we wanted.

They taught me the value of a good education. A college scholarship is more than just a reward for good grades. Winning The Broad Prize scholarship was a great honor not just for me but for my family as well. It reinforced the lesson my parents taught me that if I worked hard, I would succeed. I want to recognize my mom, who’s here today. Mom, would you please stand.

I applied to five universities and was accepted to all of them. I chose to attend UCLA because it was close to home and because it has one of the best medical schools in the country. I plan to study medicine to become an ob/gyn.

I knew it would be expensive to attend UCLA, so I applied for more than 20 scholarships. I received nine scholarships, but The Broad Prize scholarship was the most significant because it enabled me to cut my loans in half for the next four years. It also gives me the flexibility to focus on my studies rather than having to work to pay for my education or mortgaging my future to student loans and debt.

I know I should say “thanks” to The Broad Foundation for this great honor—BUT I also know that actions speak louder than words. So my real thank you will come in a four years when I graduate from college and send Mr. Broad a picture me at the graduation ceremony.

Until then – I hope you all know I truly appreciate this honor. It would not be possible for me to be the first one in my family to attend college without the support of The Broad Foundation. I will do my best to make you all proud. Thank you.