

## Augustana College Graduate Named CNN Hero of the Year

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Nelly Cheboi, right, 2016 graduate of ACI-member [Augustana College](#), was named CNN Hero of the Year in December for her work with TechLit Africa, a nonprofit that redistributes recycled computers in schools in rural Kenya.

She attended Augustana College on a full scholarship and graduated with a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics and computer science. She accepted the top honor with her mother, Christine, on stage.

Cheboi, who grew up in poverty in Mogotio, Kenya, credited her mother's hard work in raising her and her sisters for her success. She also thanked Steve Bahls, former Augustana president, and his wife, Jane, for their encouragement.



Nelly Cheboi is CNN's Hero of the Year

As CNN Hero of the Year, Cheboi will receive \$100,000 to expand her work. She and the other top 10 CNN Heroes honored at December's gala all receive a \$10,000 cash award and, for the first time, additional grants, organizational training and support from The Elevate Prize Foundation through a new collaboration with CNN Heroes. Cheboi also will be named an Elevate Prize winner, which comes with a \$300,000 grant and additional support worth \$200,000 for her nonprofit.

She was one of 10 nominees for the honor, selected by audience voting. The CNN Hero of the Year was revealed live during "[CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute](#)," hosted by Anderson Cooper and Kelly Ripa.

[Read more about Cheboi's amazing accomplishment.](#)

Story and photo credit: Augustana College