As the cost of a college education continues to increase, more students are in need of financial assistance to obtain their degree. Since 1998, Wells Fargo Bank has answered the call to help Nevada students through the Wells Fargo First Generation Scholars program, which supports students who are the first in their families to pursue a college degree.

“With the rising tide of college tuition, Wells Fargo remains firmly committed to the success of Nevada’s students,” says Chad Osorno, regional president for Wells Fargo in northern Nevada and University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Board member. “In providing assistance to these first-generation students, we are investing in the future success and recovery of the state of Nevada.”

To date, Wells Fargo Bank has given more than $1 million in support of Nevada students, and has pledged to increase the award amount by $1,000 for each student, each year. Now scholarship recipients will receive an annual award of $3,500 for each of their four years of college, as long as they maintain satisfactory progress. A requirement of the award is that recipients each spend 10 hours a month volunteering in the community.

Nearly 400 scholarships have been awarded to Wells Fargo First-Generation Scholars, who represent a diverse cross-section of disciplines at Nevada, including criminal justice, social work, international business, nutrition, engineering and education.

Scholarship recipient Michael Magno is a sophomore, pre-nursing student who plans to graduate in 2013.

“The Wells Fargo First-Generation Scholarship has been mind-blowing,” Magno says. “What a help it has been over the past two years. Having this scholarship has made my financial burden a lot less difficult, which allows me to focus on my schoolwork.

“The scholarship calls for 10 hours of community service each month, which I’m glad to give back to the Reno community,” he adds. “They also have an annual luncheon at the University where the recipients get a chance to meet Wells Fargo representatives and let them know how appreciative we are of such a generous scholarship. This award has made my dream of becoming a nurse possible, and I am so incredibly grateful.”

—Roseann Keegan

For more information about how you can support scholarship programs at the University of Nevada, Reno, please contact Keiko Weil ’87, Donor Relations director, (775) 784-1587 or kweil@unr.edu.