Smallwood Foundation helps expand Nevada’s boundaries

For many students, the dream of studying abroad remains just that—a dream. Through the Frances C. and William P. Smallwood Foundation, Nevada students are continuing their studies throughout the world and gaining experience many students can only describe as “life-changing.”

Since 2010, the Smallwood Foundation Studies Abroad Scholarship has enabled more than 50 students to move beyond the boundaries of Nevada and into the world through the University Study Abroad Consortium. This year, the Smallwood Foundation will realize the dreams of another 25 students.

Scholarship recipient Justin Lopez, Class of 2013, aspires to volunteer with the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders. Lopez recalls his time in Santiago, Chile, as “the most thrilling, enlightening and memorable time of my life.”

“Even though I was set on studying abroad, my family and I had been struggling financially last year, and I was unsure how I would be able to finance the trip,” says Lopez, who is also a National Merit Scholar. “I can’t imagine how different my world view and outlook on life would be had I been unable to go.”

Jonathan Carral, Class of 2013, would like to start a non-governmental organization working with disadvantaged children in developing countries. Through the Smallwood Scholarship, he was able to spend more than a year studying in Chengdu, China.

“I was overjoyed when I found out about the scholarship,” says Carral, an international affairs major. “Financially, my parents and I weren’t able to cover the expenses associated with studying abroad. It was because of these scholarships and individuals who help to provide them every year that I was able to study in China for three semesters.”

Jason Man, a geography major from the Class of 2012 and treasurer of the campus Geography Club, echoes the sentiment of many students who have studied abroad with the help of scholarships: “If it weren’t for the Smallwood Scholarship and others, this trip would not have been possible,” he says.

“I’m just very thankful for the opportunities that these scholarships have made possible to me, and I encourage anyone out there to apply for every scholarship they can find,” says Man, who spent four months in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. “All they have to do is try. That’s what I did.”

—Roseann Keegan

To learn more about supporting scholarships at Nevada, please contact Melanie Perish, director of development, university scholarships, (775) 682-6544 or mperish@unr.edu.