For the past 25 years, the Reno Rodeo Foundation has helped students from rural Nevada communities realize their dreams of higher education.

The foundation began in 1986 with the sole purpose of distributing proceeds from the annual Reno Rodeo through scholarships and community grants. Today, the foundation’s support has expanded to offer up to 22 student scholarships each year.

“It’s our 25th anniversary, and it’s pretty exciting,” says Marie Baxter ’95 (elementary education), ’00M.ed. (education), executive director of the Reno Rodeo Foundation. “It all comes back to investing in the youth of our community, who are going to be able to come back and reinvest their talents and make our state stronger.”

Each year, the foundation sponsors 20 merit-based scholarships for students from rural Nevada to attend the University, as well as the Bob & Kristen Tallman Scholarship and the Silver Spur Scholarship. Scholarship recipients are students pursuing a degree from the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, College of Science for pre-veterinary degrees or pre-medicine degrees, College of Business, College of Education, or Orvis School of Nursing. The Silver Spur Scholarship is for a student pursuing a pre-veterinary undergraduate degree.

Before receiving the Reno Rodeo Foundation Scholarship, sophomore Richard Corn had planned on working part-time, off-campus, in order to support his education:

“Since balancing school, commuting and work would be a difficult task, I didn’t foresee a very active campus life for myself,” Corn says. “However, after receiving the scholarship, my involvement possibilities changed entirely.”

Corn is the newly elected ASUN vice president, a former ASUN senator for the College of Business, a member of Lambda Chi Alpha, and a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary.

“Without the kindness and community outreach of organizations like the Reno Rodeo Foundation, I would not be able to gain as much as I have from my involvement at the University of Nevada. I am thankful for the opportunity.”

This year’s Reno Rodeo will be held June 16-25 at the Reno Livestock Events Center. For more information about the event and the foundation, please visit www.renorodeofoundation.org or www.renorodeo.com.

—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.