Four years ago, Northwest University began participating with Act Six, a program whose name harkens back to chapter six in the book of Acts. There, the church sets apart a “cadre” of leaders from a marginalized group as part of growing a dynamic and healthy Christian community. Described as a “Leadership and Scholarship Initiative,” Act Six seeks to increase diversity, train leaders, and generate positive change for communities.

NU’s Act Six coordinator, Juan Esparza, defines the composition of Act Six as “not simply multi-ethnic, but rather, multi-cultural.” The program empowers students to enhance their campus and community intentionally, through the mixing of rich, diverse backgrounds and cultures. The aspiration stems from a desire to inspire and train individuals to create positive change in their communities, especially in urban areas. These scholars receive most of the same leadership training that RAs and student government officials do. They meet with their cadre once a week and grow to become like a second family—supporting, encouraging, and loving one another.

by NU student Wilson Pruitt '15
Act Six is not merely another scholarship program with typical institutional objectives; its scholars’ combined dreams go beyond just producing college-educated individuals. They carry passionate, God-given calls to express their faith through practical, powerful action. Supporting the next generation of students is one expression of the greater goal—restoring broken communities, which doesn’t simply translate to “low-income” neighborhoods. Instead, it refers to the “poor in spirit,” those who need hopes nurtured and dreams kindled. Each Act Six scholar joined the program to provide practical help for a world in need, whether through classroom teaching, vocational ministry, or medical school.

The inaugural group of NU Act Six students will graduate this spring, rejoining the “real world” to ignite positive change. Their chosen paths are diverse—youth ministry, worship ministry, graduate school, law school, teaching, and corporate business. But, their imparted mission is the same—Christian leaders bringing God’s heart to their neighbors, their communities, and their world.