

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**College Goal Montana: More than 12,000 Families Served Since 2005!**

Nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF), financial aid professionals and other volunteers helped 1,087 Montana students complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at College Goal Montana sites across the state recently.

“That brings the total number of students and families served through this event to more than 12,000!” said Rhonda Safford, state coordinator for the event. “That’s 12,000 people who have benefited from this free service that helps them maximize their opportunity to receive federal, state and institutional financial aid.”

This year, the event was held at 16 locations on Wednesday, Feb. 8 and Sunday, Feb. 12.

In addition to providing one-on-one FAFSA completion assistance to Montana students and families through the traditional College Goal Montana sites and activities, SAF coordinated FAFSA completion Webinars in 54 communities throughout the state.

Participants in the Webinar events listened to a 30-minute presentation about the FAFSA, logged on to [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov) and completed the form with help from site hosts and subject matter experts.

“The Webinar element of College Goal Montana really took off this year — we were able to help 312 students file their FAFSAs through these programs,” Safford said. “We’re thrilled that we have been able to extend our reach to make sure that every student and family in Montana has access to this important program in one form or another.”

Safford expressed her gratitude to the almost 300 volunteers who helped with the College Goal Montana events and Webinars, and the generous donors who contributed funds to support \$500 scholarships awarded to students through drawings.

Safford reminds Montana students and families that, if they haven’t completed the FAFSA, they still have time and help is available. To receive free assistance, they can contact their high school counselor, the financial aid officer at the college of their choice, or one of SAF’s campus outreach managers. In addition, SAF staff members are always available to help and can be reached by calling 877-COLG4ME (265-4463).

College Goal Montana is affiliated with College Goal Sunday — a national program that was originally created by the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association with funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc. and with supplemental support from Lumina Foundation for Education.

*Student Assistance Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Montana corporation that provides students with knowledge and tools to finance and pursue their postsecondary education. Funds generated by SAF are returned to Montanans in the form of education grants and public benefit programs - to date more than \$22.4 million. For more information, visit [www.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org) or [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org)*