

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday, Dec. 30, 2013.

CONTACT:

Carolynn Bright
Communications Officer
(406) 495-7506

Montana Students: It's Time to Apply for SAF's Circle of Succe\$\$ Scholarships

Beginning on Jan. 1, Montana students are invited to apply for \$1,000 Circle of Succe\$\$ scholarships from nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF).

Applications for SAF's \$1,000 Circle of Succe\$\$ scholarships will be available at SmartAboutCollege.org beginning on Jan. 1. Click on the "Apply Now" button under the photos of the Circle of Succe\$\$ Class of 2013 to link to an application form. The application deadline is Saturday, March 1.

"The 'Circle of Succe\$\$ Class of 2013' included some really exceptional Montana students and we are looking forward to meeting the members of the class of 2014," said Darbie Hess, grants manager for SAF.

Montana State University student Katie DeLauriers, 34, of Belgrade was one of the 2013 scholarship recipients:

"I am excited to someday be the first college graduate of my own immediate family," DeLauriers said. "Thank you for the support of the Circle of Succe\$\$ scholarship. These funds will not be wasted!"

In order to qualify for a Circle of Succe\$\$ scholarship, applicants must be Montana residents who graduated from a Montana high school, and attending a Montana college or university at least half time. They must be in their second, third or fourth year of postsecondary education and maintaining at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA). A committee of SAF employees evaluates the applications to determine who receives the grants.

SAF has been providing Circle of Succe\$\$ scholarships to students at Montana colleges since 2003 — \$467,000 in all. The program is near and dear to the hearts of SAF employees because it was originally funded solely through SAF employee donations. Today, SAF uses the proceeds from fundraising efforts including the annual golf scramble, the Out of the Blue Bash, Running Amuck for Scholarship Bucks, and private donations to supplement the effort.

Scholarships are distributed among six scholarship regions throughout the state.

For more information about the Circle of Succe\$\$ Scholarship program, visit SmartAboutCollege.org or contact Darbie Hess at dhess@safmt.org or (406) 495-7393.

Student Assistance Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Montana corporation that provides students with knowledge and tools to pursue and fund 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 \$27 million. For more information, visit www.safmt.org or www.SmartAboutCollege.org.

