

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**SAF Announces 77 Winners of 2016 Circle of Success Scholarships**

Nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) recently awarded \$1,000 Circle of Success scholarships to 77 Montana students, bringing the total amount of funds distributed through this program to \$689,000.

Of those scholarships, 52 were awarded to Montana postsecondary students to help them continue their education in the 2016-17 academic year. The remaining 25 scholarships were provided to high school seniors attending one of 58 Graduation Matters Montana (GMM) schools, and members of Superintendent Denise Juneau’s GMM Student Advisory Board.

“Every student should have the option to attend college and Student Assistance Foundation makes that possible for more Montana students,” Juneau said. “When our students succeed, all Montanans benefit.”

In addition, 2016 marked the first year that one of the Circle of Success scholarships was awarded to a qualifying student who is serving, or has served, in the U.S. Armed Forces — Robert Brook of Helena. This scholarship is delivered in memory of retired Staff Sgt. Carl Valvoda who passed away in 2015 following a courageous battle with brain cancer. Valvoda’s mother, Glenda, works at SAF, and his wife, Jamie, worked at SAF for several years.

“It is SAF’s privilege to be a part of the higher education funding solution for these dedicated Montana students,” said Kelly Cresswell, SAF’s vice president of Foundation Activities. “Our state needs and deserves a well-educated work force and Circle of Success contributes to that.”

The Circle of Success scholarship 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 and private donations to supplement the effort.

**More information about Graduation Matters Montana and the list of participating schools can be found at: <http://graduationmatters.mt.gov>.**

*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 \$31 million. For more information, visit [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org) or [www.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org).*

**Circle of Success Scholarship Recipients**

Mikal Overturf	Basin
Sarah Coghlan	Billings
Sara Heard	Billings

Sarah Scheie	Billings
Luke Halliburton	Bozeman
Jessica Hays	Bozeman
Layton Hrubes	Bozeman
Ian Jirasko	Bozeman
Madison Owens	Bozeman
Noah ten Broek	Bozeman
Shawn Blackman	Browning
Jonathan Allen	Butte
Zachary Bunney	Butte
Kyler Harkins	Butte
Levin Mullaney	Butte
Markie Sieler	Butte
Michael Studiner	Butte
Ryan Handley	Clinton
Justice Harris	Dillon
Madyson Klapmeier	Forsyth
Dawson Demontiney	Great Falls
Haley Fallang	Great Falls
Sydne Frohberg	Great Falls
Wyatt LaBelle	Great Falls
Jessica Ream	Great Falls
Kaitlin Stromberg	Hamilton
Emily Simonson	Havre
Robert Brook	Helena
Sophia Ferst	Helena
Cole Funseth	Helena
Kyle Griffith	Helena
Christine Patten	Helena
Katarina Goettlich	Hilger
Aleandra Fetveit	Kalispell
Savannah Sletten	Laurel
Kailey Grover	Lewistown
Stacy Orr	Libby
Callum Gannon	Livingston
Angelica Linabary	Manhattan
Nicole Blake	Missoula
Ellen Dye	Missoula
Ryan Mason	Missoula
Emilie Rott	Missoula
Kansas Suenram	Missoula
Allison Trent	Missoula
Katherine Bertolino	Roberts
Wade Burland	Ronan
Greg Wadsworth	Thompson Falls
Madison Robischon	Townsend
Bailey Escott	Twin Bridges
Mikayla Tilstra	Twin Bridges
Shae Sager	Wilsall

### Graduation Matters Montana Circle of Success Scholarship Recipients

Bridger Arthun	Bozeman
Marlene Ortiz-Martinez	Bozeman
Greta Gustafson	Browning
Clay Seccomb	Butte
Hunter Fisk	Butte
Nicolas Ream	Columbia Falls
Luke Channer	Corvallis
Madison Murray	Corvallis
Joseph Pennington	Elliston
Ivy Vessey	Great Falls
Knox Semenza	Great Falls
Jade Decker	Great Falls
Ashley Skartved	Great Falls
Ariane Rice	Great Falls
Ashley Hofland	Havre
MaKenna Marvin	Kalispell
Connor Ludwig	Laurel
Alyssa Dawes	Laurel
Quincy Preston	Missoula
Allix Larsen	Olney
Alan Ihms	Plains
Jake Michels	Shepherd
Faith Ellis	Stevensville
Jace Lewis	Townsend
Bailee Field	Townsend