

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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College Goal Montana Provides Free Help Completing the FAFSA

Free help for students and parents tasked with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) — an essential stepping stone to attaining federal, state and institutional aid — is available at College Goal Montana events in communities across the state.

Employees of nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF), financial aid officers and volunteers will gather at 18 locations on Feb. 9 and/or Feb. 13 to offer one-on-one instruction completing this important form.

In addition, 34 communities will host virtual College Goal Montana sites on various dates at which students and their parents can listen to a 30-minute presentation about the FAFSA, log on to fafsa.gov and complete the form. Help from site hosts and subject matter experts via the Webinar chat function will be available.

“Many students and parents think that financial aid is only available for low-income families, but there are financial aid options for families at all income levels,” said Ricki Jones, financial aid officer at The University of Montana Western. “If you don’t apply for financial aid, you aren’t considered for any funds. It’s as simple as that.”

Attendees who register at any of the College Goal Montana locations will be entered to win one of 18, \$500 scholarships.

Webinar participants will be entered to win scholarships as well. Four scholarships will be shared among registrants who attended College Goal Montana Webinar sessions.

2011 marks the seventh year that SAF has coordinated this event in Montana. In all, almost 8,400 students and families have been served through the program.

To find a College Goal Montana site near you, or a Webinar location, visit www.SmartAboutCollege.org or call 877-COLG4ME.

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 \$19.6 million. For more information, visit www.SmartAboutCollege.org or www.safmt.org

Additional Information

College Goal Montana locations include:

MSU-Billings in Billings, Montana State University in Bozeman, Blackfeet Community College in Browning, Montana Tech in Butte, Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency, Dawson Community College in Glendive, MSU-Great Falls College of Technology in Great Falls, Fort Belknap College in Harlem, MSU-Northern in Havre, Carroll College and UM Helena College of Technology in Helena, The University of Montana Western in Dillon, Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, Chief Dull Knife College in Lame Deer, Flathead Valley Community College-Lincoln County in Libby, Miles Community College in Miles City, The University of Montana in Missoula, Salish Kootenai College in Pablo and Fort Peck Community College in Poplar.

Don't forget to bring:

- **FAFSA PIN Number** — to get your pin, log on to www.pin.ed.gov
- **Social Security Numbers** (students and parents)
- **2010 Federal Tax Returns** (or 2009 tax returns if 2010 returns are not complete)
- **W-2s, tribal income, other aid information** (TANF, child support, other benefits)
- **Additional asset information** (money market funds, stocks, other investments)