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CONTACT:

Carolynn Bright
Communications Officer
(406) 495-7506

SAF Distributes \$1.25 Million in Acce\$\$ Grant Funds to Help Montana Students

Students attending Montana's postsecondary institutions in Academic Year 2013-14 will benefit from \$1.25 million in Acce\$\$ Grant funds distributed by nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation recently.

The grants are awarded each year by SAF to Montana students through financial aid offices at all Montana postsecondary schools, including tribal and private institutions, and two-year and four-year schools. The amount awarded to each school is based on their relative share of resident enrollment and Pell Grant recipients.

Financial aid officers use the grants to help students in need pay for their education. Individual award amounts vary by student and are determined by the financial aid office.

"We've reworked the Acce\$\$ Grant program to ensure that the dollars go to Montana resident students with financial need," said Kelly Cresswell, vice president of foundation activities. "Many Montana students face financial barriers to pursuing postsecondary education, and Acce\$\$ Grants are a significant portion of need-based grant dollars available for Montana students."

The Acce\$\$ Grant program was established in 2000, and since that time, SAF has distributed almost \$12 million in Acce\$\$ Grant funds for allocation by financial aid officers to students who meet their school's criteria.

"The financial situation in our house is a balancing act among work, school and childcare expenses," said Flathead Valley Community College student Shane Cooke, a 2012-13 recipient of Acce\$\$ Grant funds. "This Acce\$\$ Grant will have a major impact on the financial situation for my family."

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 \$26 million. For more information, visit www.safmt.org or www.SmartAboutCollege.org.

2013/14 Academic Year Acce\$\$ Grants

Aaniih Nakoda (Fort Belknap College)	\$5,798
Blackfeet Community College	\$15,704
Carroll College	\$20,662
Chief Dull Knife College	\$8,966
Dawson Community College	\$9,649
Flathead Valley Community College	\$68,853
Fort Peck Community College	\$16,065

Great Falls College MSU	\$58,904
Helena College UM	\$50,659
Little Big Horn College	\$11,658
Miles Community College	\$11,550
Montana Tech of The UM and Highlands College	\$70,396
MSU Billings & City College	\$143,160
Montana State University	\$264,929
MSU Northern	\$35,608
Rocky Mountain College	\$18,474
Salish Kootenai College	\$29,632
Stone Child College	\$9,575
University of Great Falls	\$22,442
The University of Montana & Missoula College	\$344,771
The University of Montana Western	\$32,547
TOTAL	\$1,250,000