

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011.

**CONTACT:**

Carolynn Bright  
Media Relations Coordinator  
(406) 495-7506

**It's Time to Apply for SAF's Circle of Succe\$\$ Scholarships**

After Jaycilyn Croff gets her teaching degree at Montana State University, she wants to return home to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation to teach second grade students in Browning.

Cory Lovec hopes to attend graduate school at The University of Montana to become a pharmacist. When he achieves that goal, Cory thinks he will return to his hometown of Ekalaka to open a pharmacy — right now, the closest pharmacy is about 40 miles away.

These are just two of the talented students who received Circle of Succe\$\$ scholarships to help fund their dreams of higher education from nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) in 2011.

“Student Assistance Foundation feels privileged to have helped the members of the ‘Circle of Succe\$\$ Class of 2011’ and we are looking forward to meeting the members of the class of 2012,” said Darbie Hess, grants manager for SAF.

**Applications for the 2012 Circle of Succe\$\$ scholarship program will be available beginning Jan. 1 on SAF's SmartAboutCollege.org website. The application deadline is Thursday, March 15.**

In order to qualify for a Circle of Succe\$\$ scholarship, applicants must be Montana residents who graduated from a Montana high school, 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 \$1,000, Circle of Succe\$\$ scholarships to students at Montana colleges since 2003 — \$341,000 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 its annual golf scramble and private donations to supplement the effort.

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

Check out the 2011 winners at SmartAboutCollege.org or on SAF's Facebook page.

*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 \$22.8 million. For more information, visit [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org) or [www.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org).*