

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**CONTACT:**

Carolynn Bright  
Communications Officer  
(406) 495-7506

**Montana Money Magic: Helping Montana Students Save for the Future**

Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) is looking for student candidates to participate in its Montana Money Magic program in six regions across the state.

Montana Money Magic is an effort that will help qualifying low-income students save for college, and learn how to manage their money. To qualify, students must be between the ages of 16 and 19; in high school; and from a family with an income of less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

“Thanks to a \$1.68 million grant from the Family Economic Security program at the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), SAF will be able to reach out to this extremely important segment of our student population,” said Kelly Cresswell, SAF’s vice president of Foundation Activities. “These are students and families who may not otherwise have the opportunity to save for college, or even necessarily consider postsecondary education an option.”

According to information provided at the Montana College Affordability Summit in Helena last year, Montana ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in the country in 2010 for its rate of low-income students who go on to participate in college — a rate that Cresswell believes can be improved through programs like Montana Money Magic.

In addition to receiving important instruction on financial literacy, participating students will have the opportunity to earn a 3-to-1 match on their personal savings. Those who save \$450 through the program can earn the maximum match of \$1,350.

Matched funds can be used to pay for a variety of items to help students gain access to higher education including dual enrollment, tuition and fees, tutoring, test fees, computers, and more.

Counties that are included in this project include: Gallatin, Park, Meagher, Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Cascade, Choteau, Teton, Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Yellowstone, Broadwater, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Ravalli, Mineral, Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, Beaverhead, Madison, Powell, and Granite.

Following the initial 18-month term, the grant can be renewed for three additional, 12-month terms.

If you know a student who would qualify and benefit from this program, contact the SAF campus outreach manager in your area:

Gallatin, Park, Meagher

Nolan Glueckert

(406) 994-5024

Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Cascade, Choteau, Teton	Allen Heisler	(406) 771-5136
Sweet Grass, Yellowstone	Kalie Porter	(406) 247-3034
Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater	Jennifer Almli	(406) 874-6197
Broadwater, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark	Marti Johnson	(406) 447-6950
Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, Beaverhead Madison, Powell, Granite	Schylar Canfield-Baber	(406) 496-4890
Missoula, Mineral, Ravalli	Greg Kolwicz	(406) 243-5426

*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 \$28 million. For more information, visit [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org) or [www.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org).*