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CONTACT:

Carolynn Bright
Media Relations Coordinator
(406) 495-7506

SAF Distributes \$1.25 Million in Grant Funds to Montana Schools

Nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) recently distributed \$1.25 million in Acce\$\$ funds to assist students in Academic Year 2011-12 at 21 Montana postsecondary institutions.

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 determined by enrollment numbers.

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.

“Acce\$\$ Grants are the cornerstone of SAF’s public benefit programs,” said Kelly Cresswell, SAF’s vice president of Foundation Activities. “The cost of attending college continues to climb across the country, so it’s more important than ever that we help Montana students and families make this investment in education. Montana needs a well-educated population going into the future.”

The Acce\$\$ Grant program was established in 2000, and since that time, SAF has distributed \$9.47 million in Acce\$\$ Grant funds for allocation by financial aid officers to students who meet their school’s criteria.

“This scholarship has made it possible for me to attend school without worrying about the stresses of how to pay for it,” said 2010 Acce\$\$ Grant recipient Kylee Leidholt. “After I graduate, I would like to be able to give back to other students in the way SAF has given to me.”

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 \$22.4 million. For more information, visit www.safmt.org or www.SmartAboutCollege.org.

Grant Amounts by School

Blackfeet Community College: \$15,031
Carroll College: \$37,579
Chief Dull Knife College: \$7,516
Dawson Community College: \$11,274
Flathead Valley Community College: \$60,126
Fort Belknap College: \$6,263
Fort Peck Community College: \$11,274
Little Big Horn College: \$9,520
Miles Community College: \$13,779
Montana Tech of The University of Montana: \$65,764

Montana State University Billings: \$145,306
Montana State University: \$289,378
Montana State University Northern: \$37,579
Montana State University Great Falls: \$35,900
Rocky Mountain College: \$25,053
Salish Kootenai College: \$25,053
Stone Child College: \$6,263
University of Great Falls: \$20,042
The University of Montana: \$373,411
The University of Montana – Helena: \$23,825
The University of Montana Western: \$30,064
Total: \$1.25 million