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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 2010-11 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 individual and are determined by the financial aid office.

“We are extremely pleased that we were able to increase the amount of Acce\$\$ Grant funds we were able to provide to Montana students this academic year by almost \$33,000,” said Kelly Chapman, SAF’s vice president of Foundation Activities. “Acce\$\$ Grants are the cornerstone of our public benefits, and with the recent increase in student enrollment, the time was right to invest these additional funds in the future of Montana students.”

The Acce\$\$ Grant program was established 10 years ago, and since that time, SAF has distributed \$8.2 million in Acce\$\$ Grant funds for allocation by financial aid officers to students who meet their school’s criteria.

“(Acce\$\$ Grants) helped me succeed, become who I am today,” said Chelsea Goodwin, a graduate of UM-Western. Goodwin received Acce\$\$ Grant funding to help her pay for tuition throughout her academic career.

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 \$19.4 million. For more information, visit www.safmt.org or www.smartaboutcollege.org.

Grant Amounts Received by Schools

The University of Montana and UM COT \$373,411
Rocky Mountain College \$25,053
MSU Northern \$37,579
Flathead Valley Community College \$60,126
Carroll College \$37,579
Dawson Community College \$11,274
The University of Montana - Western \$30,064
Salish Kootenai College \$25,053
Blackfeet Community College \$15,031
Miles Community College \$13,779
Fort Peck Community College \$11,274
Little Bighorn College \$9,520
Chief Dull Knife College \$7,516
Fort Belknap College \$6,263
Stone Child College \$6,263
University of Great Falls \$20,042
Montana Tech and Montana College of Technology \$65,764
UM-Helena College of Technology \$23,825
MSU Billings and MSU Billings College of Technology \$145,306
MSU Great Falls College of Technology \$35,900
Montana State University – Bozeman \$289,378
Total \$1.25 million