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SAF Awards \$56,000 in Circle of Succe\$\$ Grants to Montana Students

(HELENA) Nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) recently awarded \$56,000 in Circle of Succe\$\$ Grants to students across Montana to help them cover costs associated with continuing their postsecondary education.

For the past four years, SAF employees have contributed money through voluntary payroll deductions to help Montana students attain higher education through the grant program. Funds raised from last summer's SAF Golf Scramble also contributed to the total grant amount.

Between the two efforts, SAF collected enough money to distribute 56, \$1,000 grants to students from communities throughout the state.

Grant recipient Jennifer Wooden Legs of Lame Deer said the grant funds will help her to continue her college education while managing the responsibility of being a single mother of four children.

She explains that her dream is to become a counselor at the Health Service Unit in Lame Deer and help her neighbors overcome some of the challenges she has faced in her lifetime.

"I think this award will help me by giving me a chance to prove to myself and to my children that I can make something of myself," Wooden Legs said. "(This grant) makes it so I don't have to worry if the bills are paid or if I have enough gas to make it to and from the college."

Marti Johnson, grants manager for SAF, said the committee charged with evaluating the applications was greatly affected by the stories of all the grant applicants — a fact that made it particularly difficult to narrow the field and select who should benefit from the available funds.

"It's our privilege to provide these grants to students to help them on their path to achieving their dreams of a college education," she said. "This program gives SAF employees an opportunity to truly live our company's mission and to really make a difference for the Montana students and families we serve."

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 \$10 million. For more information, visit www.SmartAboutCollege.org or www.safmt.org.

Grant Recipients by County

Beaverhead — Ethan Lula
Big Horn — Suzanne Anderson
Broadwater — Brad Larson

Carbon — Josephine Greene
Carter — Amanda Kortum
Cascade — Breanna Bishop
Chouteau — Kelsee Clark
Custer — Katherine Hosbein
Dawson — Austin Schock, Sadie Wiseman, Tarena Utgaard
Deer Lodge — Rachel Grosvold
Fallon — Jessica Kirschten
Fergus — Miles Pennell
Flathead — Katie Reimer
Gallatin — Samantha Stephens, Teresa Keserich
Glacier — Michele Anderson-Laidlaw
Golden Valley — Miranda Ainslie
Granite — Kathleen Oberweiser
Hill — Seth Hinckley, Torrie Wolery
Jefferson — Sharon Houseworth
Judith Basin — Dabrianna Raprager
Lake — Shawna Baum
Lewis and Clark — Tammy DeFrance
Liberty — Karri Sundgren
Lincoln — Brittany Vinson, Jeremy Basler
Madison — Josie Sutter
McCone — Candy Huseby
Missoula — Amanda Richard, Jessica Peterson
Park — Sarah Palecek
Petroleum — Felicia Manuel
Phillips — Stacie Pankratz
Powder River — Kirstie Fruit
Powell — River Newman, Samantha Barber
Ravalli — Nikole Disney
Richland — Desiree Allen
Roosevelt — Whitney Grimsrud
Rosebud — Darleen Barreto, Jennifer Wooden Legs
Sanders — Lucas Necessary
Silver Bow — Cody Thom, Giordyn Warner
Stillwater — Tyler Golden
Teton — Traci Brumwell
Toole — Marie Christiaens
Treasure — Morgan Cunningham
Valley — Kevin Tweeten
Wheatland — Catherine Butts
Wibaux — Allyssa Harrell
Yellowstone — Kelly Heard, Kori Wilkerson