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SAF Awards \$58,000 in Circle of Succe\$\$ Grants to Montana Students

(HELENA) Nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) recently awarded \$58,000 in Circle of Succe\$\$ Grants to students across Montana to help them cover costs associated with continuing their postsecondary education.

For the past five 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 58, \$1,000 grants to students from communities throughout the state.

2010 grant recipient Ronald Ingraham of Browning said the grant funds will go a long way to ensuring that he is able to complete his education.

"(This grant) will help me with the expense of school and it will ensure that I won't have to put my education and dreams on hold...due to the cost of college," said Ingraham. "And ultimately, I will finally be able to fulfill my dream of being able to contribute to my Blackfeet people and my community."

Darbie Hess, grants manager for SAF, said the committee charged with selecting the grant recipients had a challenging duty in narrowing the numerous applications to meet the number of grants available.

"Each year we see grant requests from so many dedicated and talented students, it's always difficult to select just a few to receive Circle of Succe\$\$ Grants," she said. "At SAF, it's our privilege to assist Montana students in this manner — it's an excellent opportunity for our employees to truly live SAF's mission and 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 \$17.4 million. For more information, visit www.SmartAboutCollege.org or www.safmt.org.

Grant Winners by County

Beaverhead — William Louis, Whitney Thomas
Big Horn — Annette Passes, Jade White Clay
Blaine — Talia Grant
Carbon — Madeline Felts
Carter — Amanda Kortum

Cascade — Jenny Silvan, Dawn Tripi
Choteau — Logan Tweet
Custer — Camille Sleight, Kayla Kaze
Daniels — Morgan Landeraaen
Dawson — Sadie Wiseman, Hannah McPherson
Deer Lodge — Savannah Cron
Fergus — Zachariah Wichman
Flathead — Victoria Zimmer
Gallatin — Hamilton Lynn, Courtney Jones, Travis Marshall, Teresa Keserich
Glacier — Ronald Ingraham
Golden Valley — Miranda Ainslie
Granite — Kathleen Oberweiser
Hill — Torrie Wolery, Anni Freier
Jefferson — Kellyi Benson
Judith Basin — Dabrianna Raprager
Lake — Shelley Schenderline
Lewis and Clark — Maren Kirkland, Jessica Lang
Liberty — Breana Wolery
Lincoln — Jake Graham
Madison — Ashley Morton
McCone — Stephanie Haynie
Missoula — Coy Putra, Shawna Baum
Park — Michael Jacobsen
Pondera — Courtney Ellefsen
Powder River — Kirstie Fruit
Powell — Samantha Barber
Prairie — Kyle Tusler
Ravalli — Sheena Hajek
Richland — Jordan Mayer
Roosevelt — LaToya Buck Elk
Rosebud — Anna Weasel Bear
Sanders — Stephanie Butler
Sheridan — Liselle Moberg
Silver Bow — Matthew Curran, Anna Walsh
Teton — Christopher Tacke
Toole — Brittany Seubert
Treasure — Morgan Cunningham
Valley — Corey Smith, Kevin Tweten
Yellowstone — Darla Stone, Chase Monson