

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday, Dec. 28, 2008.

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SAF Offers Circle of Succe\$\$ Grants to Students in 56 Montana Counties

(HELENA) Need cash for class? Nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) is offering a \$1,000 grant in each of Montana's 56 counties to help students attain their dreams of postsecondary education.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2010, Montana students are invited to apply for Circle of Succe\$\$ grants to help cover the cost of tuition and related expenses.

"2010 will mark the fifth year that SAF has provided Circle of Succe\$\$ grants to help Montana students meet the challenge posed by paying for their college education," said Darbie Hess, grants manager for SAF. "It's SAF's privilege to be able to invest in Montana students' futures this way."

Since the inception of the Circle of Succe\$\$ grant program, SAF and its donors have provided \$231,000 to help students continue their higher education. The grant program was originally funded solely through voluntary payroll deductions by SAF employees, but now funds raised through SAF's annual golf scramble also are used to provide the grants.

"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," 2009 grant recipient Jennifer 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."

In order to qualify for a Circle of Succe\$\$ grant, applicants must be Montana residents attending a Montana college or university at least half time, be in their second, third or fourth year of postsecondary education and maintaining at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA). A committee of SAF employees evaluates the applications to determine who receives the grants.

To apply, students may visit www.SmartAboutCollege.org before the March 15, 2010 deadline, click on the "Circle of Succe\$\$ grants" tab and follow the instructions. For more information, call toll free 877-COLG4ME (265-4463).

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 \$16.8 million. For more information, visit www.safmt.org or www.SmartAboutCollege.org