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SAF to Distribute \$1.2 Million in Grant Funds to Montana Schools

(HELENA) Nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) will distribute \$1.2 million in Acce\$\$ Grant funds to assist students in Academic Year 2009-10 at 21 Montana postsecondary institutions.

Acce\$\$ 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.

"I'm really grateful for SAF," said Acce\$\$ Grant recipient Kim McLean, a student at The University of Montana. "They were able to help me in a financial time of need which gave me more time to spend on studying and my family, which was really important to me."

The Acce\$\$ Grant program was established nine years ago, and since that time, SAF has distributed \$6.9 million in Acce\$\$ Grant funds for allocation by financial aid officers to students who meet their school's criteria.

"Acce\$\$ Grants are the cornerstone for SAF's public benefit efforts," said Kelly Chapman, SAF's vice president of Foundation Activities. "At SAF, we believe these grants demonstrate our commitment to Montana students and families, Montana schools, and ultimately, the future of our state. It's our privilege to be of assistance in this way."

Schools receiving Acce\$\$ Grants include Blackfeet Community College, Carroll College, Chief Dull Knife College, Dawson Community College, Flathead Valley Community College, Fort Belknap College, Fort Peck Community College, Little Big Horn College, Miles Community College, Montana State University, MSU-Billings, MSU-Northern, Montana Tech of the University of Montana and College of Technology, MSU-Great Falls College of Technology, Rocky Mountain College, Salish Kootenai College, Stone Child College, University of Great Falls, The University of Montana and College of Technology, UM-Helena College of Technology, and The University of Montana-Western.

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 \$16.4 million. For more information, visit www.SmartAboutCollege.org or www.safmt.org.

Academic 2009-10 Access Grants by School:

Blackfeet Community College \$14,638
Carroll College \$36,596
Chief Dull Knife College \$7,319
Dawson Community College \$10,979
Flathead Valley Community College \$58,553
Fort Belknap College \$6,099
Fort Peck Community College \$10,979
Little Big Horn College \$9,271
Miles Community College \$13,418
Montana Tech of The University of Montana and College of Technology \$64,043
Montana State University – Billings and College of Technology \$141,504
Montana State University \$281,806
Montana State University – Northern \$36,596
Montana State University – Great Falls College of Technology \$34,961
Rocky Mountain College \$24,397
Salish Kootenai College \$24,397
Stone Child College \$6,099
University of Great Falls \$19,518
The University of Montana and College of Technology \$363,640
The University of Montana Helena and College of Technology \$23,202
The University of Montana – Western \$29,277
Total \$1,217,292