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**Students: Get Free Help Completing the FAFSA at Montana College Goal Sunday**

Considering the rising cost of postsecondary education, Montana students and families should leave no avenue unexplored when it comes to securing financial aid, according to nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF).

For most families, that process begins annually with the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and SAF and its community partners are prepared to assist with that process.

Each year, SAF, financial aid officers and volunteers gather at sites across the state for Montana College Goal Sunday to provide free, one-on-one guidance to students and families completing this important form.

This year, the event will take place at 18 sites on **Sunday, Jan. 31** and **Wednesday, Feb. 3**. Not all sites will host the event on both days, so visit [www.CollegeGoalMT.org](http://www.CollegeGoalMT.org) or call 877-COLG4ME to check event details in your community.

“Many students and families assume they won’t qualify for financial aid, but studies show that a significant number of people who don’t complete the FAFSA would have received some form of assistance — federal or institutional,” said Rhonda Safford, state-wide coordinator for Montana College Goal Sunday. “We at SAF, and our community partners, don’t want anyone to miss out on any financial aid opportunities. That’s why we help coordinate Montana College Goal Sunday each year.”

In 2009, Montana College Goal Sunday helped 986 students complete their FAFSA, bringing the total number of students and families served in the five years SAF has coordinated the program to more than 6,000.

College Goal Sunday is a national program that was originally created by the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association with funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc. and with supplemental support from Lumina Foundation for Education.

*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.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org) or [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org).

### **Additional Information**

#### **College Goal Sunday locations include:**

MSU-Billings in Billings, Montana State University in Bozeman, Blackfeet Community College in Browning, Montana Tech in Butte, Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency, Dawson Community College in Glendive, MSU-Great Falls College of Technology in Great Falls, Fort Belknap College in Harlem, MSU-Northern in Havre, Carroll College and UM Helena College of Technology in Helena, UM-Western in Dillon, Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, Chief Dull Knife College in Lame Deer, Flathead Valley Community College-Lincoln County in Libby, Miles Community College in Miles City, The University of Montana in Missoula, Salish Kootenai College in Pablo and Fort Peck Community College in Wolf Point.

#### **Don't forget to bring:**

- **FAFSA PIN Number** — to get your pin, log on to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)
- **Social Security Numbers** (students and parents)
- **2008 Federal Tax Returns** (or 2008 tax returns if 2009 returns are not complete)
- **W-2s, tribal income, other aid information** (TANF, child support, other benefits)
- **Additional asset information** (money market funds, stocks, other investments)