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SAF Opens Campus Outreach Office in Helena

(HELENA) Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) will open the doors to its newest campus outreach office at UM-Helena College of Technology on Sept. 1.

The addition of the office brings the total number of SAF outreach offices in Montana communities to eight.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work one on one with students at UM-Helena College of Technology," said Marti Johnson, the outreach office manager assigned to the new site. "Of course, SAF's main office is located in Helena and staff has always been available to help students and families in this community. But the new office on the campus provides greater visibility and awareness of SAF programs and services."

Johnson has more than 20 years of experience helping students plan for their college education. In addition to working in the customer service area at SAF, Johnson has provided community outreach services based out of The University of Montana-Western and Montana Tech of The University of Montana.

Managers at SAF's campus outreach offices provide a wide range of services including college planning, college success strategies, scholarship search assistance, default resolution information, financial aid night presentations, resource referrals and Montana Career Information System (MCIS) instruction.

Valerie Lambert, director of financial aid at UM-Helena College of Technology, said she is looking forward to working in cooperation with Johnson to provide guidance to students.

"We are very excited to have a representative from SAF on our campus," she said. "With our growing student population and the increased need for financial literacy, this will be a tremendous service for our students."

In addition to serving students at UM-Helena, Johnson is available to work with students at Carroll College, Capital High School, Helena High School, C.R. Anderson Middle School, Helena Middle School, and other schools in the surrounding area.

Kelly Chapman, SAF's vice president of Foundation Activities, explains that the role of the campus outreach managers throughout Montana is an important one.

“These outreach offices allow SAF employees to interact with students in a setting that’s accessible and comfortable. We know from our experiences with our other outreach offices that we’re able to serve far more students when we’re on campus,” she said.

The new office is located in the Student Center on UM-Helena College of Technology’s Donaldson Campus. The telephone number at the office is (406) 444-3986.

Since SAF opened its first campus outreach office at The University of Montana in Missoula in 2000, outreach managers have touched almost 250,000 Montanans through their campus and community outreach efforts.

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.