

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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SAF: Grant Funds Available to Help Students KnowHow2GO 2 College

(HELENA) Providing Montana students and families with the know-how to get to college is no easy task. Nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) can help!

Thanks to the generous support of the Lumina Foundation for Education, SAF is offering five, \$2,500 grants to pilot KnowHow2GO 2 College Week in 2010. Montana community organizations, colleges and other groups with education-related missions are encouraged to apply.

KnowHow2GO 2 College Week evolved as a result of discussions among stakeholders in SAF's popular Montana College Goal Sunday event.

"We all agree that Montana students and families benefit from receiving free, one-on-one help completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at College Goal Sunday," said Kelly Chapman, SAF's vice president of Foundation Activities. "Thanks to the grant funds from the Lumina Foundation for Education, we have an opportunity to combine College Goal Sunday with the national KnowHow2GO campaign to help more Montanans attain their dreams of higher education."

The purpose of the national KnowHow2GO campaign is to provide students from middle school through adulthood with detailed instruction on how to get to college. The campaign encourages students to:

- Be a pain — in a good way! (goal setting, finding a mentor, writing a personal statement/college essay)
- Push yourself! (planning for senior year, extra-curricular activities, taking the "tough" classes)
- Find the right fit! (college visits, using the Montana Career Information System, career interest inventories)
- Get your hands on some cash! (financial aid awareness, scholarships, completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Each KnowHow2GO 2 College Week project will be customized to meet the needs of area students, and will provide Montana families with a variety of workshops on each of the four KnowHow2GO steps, and hands-on assistance completing the FAFSA.

Groups interested in applying for one of the KnowHow2GO 2 College Week grants should visit the www.SmartAboutCollege.org or send an e-mail to Darbie Hess, grants manager, at dhess@safmt.org. **The application deadline is Friday, Oct. 23, 2009.**

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.