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SAF: FY2008 Solid, \$3.3 Million Distributed to Montana Students

(HELENA) Nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) recorded a solid year in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 that allowed the distribution of \$3.3 million to Montana students in the form of grants and outreach services.

According to SAF's audited financial information released this week, SAF closed FY2008 with a \$1.5 million net surplus despite a turbulent year in the student loan industry and the financial markets.

"Enhancing student access to postsecondary education is our primary objective," said Jim Bell, president of the SAF board of directors. "And thanks to the performance of SAF's student loan servicing activities and the generosity of our donors, we had the opportunity to reach more students in FY2008 than ever before."

SAF's loan servicing portfolio increased from \$3.78 billion in 2007 to \$3.99 billion in 2008, while SAF's Foundation Activities Division garnered \$459,066 through its fundraising activities, according to the financial reports.

Some of the programs provided in FY2008 through SAF's efforts include:

- Acce\$\$ Grants — SAF delivered \$1.2 million in need-based grants to students through the financial aid offices at Montana's 21 colleges and universities.
- Circle of Succe\$\$ Grants — SAF awarded \$115,000 to 115 Montana students to help them continue their postsecondary education.
- Campus Outreach Offices — SAF counseled more than 46,000 Montana students and families through its seven campus outreach offices.
- College Goal Sunday, Montana Career Information Service (MCIS), KnowHow2GO and "A Step Ahead" College Preparatory Camp for foster youths.

"At SAF, we make a difference in the lives of Montana students, and it is through their achievements and successes that the fruits of our labor become evident," said Bell. "It is there that we believe we find the true measure of our worth."

SAF's complete, audited financial statements can be accessed from www.safmt.org.

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 \$13.5 million. For more information, visit www.safmt.org.