

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008.

**CONTACT:**

Carolynn Bright  
Media Relations Coordinator  
(406) 495-7506  
or  
Libby Siebens  
College Access Marketing Manager  
(406) 495-7392

**Montana College Goal Sunday  
Helps Record Number of Students and Families**

(HELENA) Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) and volunteers at 17 locations across the state helped 1,649 students and their families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at Montana College Goal Sunday on Feb. 10.

In addition, SAF and its community partners distributed at least two, \$500 scholarships at each College Goal Sunday site for the students to use at the schools of their choice.

According to Libby Siebens, college access marketing manager for SAF, attendance at the event geared to providing one-on-one assistance with the FAFSA — the first step on the road to obtaining financial aid — was up by almost 100 participants from 2007.

“We have watched the number of people attending College Goal Sunday increase steadily each of the four years SAF has coordinated this event in Montana. To date, we have served almost 5,000 students and their families,” Siebens said. “We’re extremely pleased with that success because it means that people recognize the importance of the FAFSA and are taking advantage of this free resource.”

National studies show that 40 percent of students who did not fill out the FAFSA would have qualified for some type of financial aid. Siebens said it’s a common misconception by many Montanans that they won’t qualify for financial aid, and it’s part of SAF’s goal through College Goal Sunday to set the record straight.

According to Siebens, 245 Montana financial aid officers, SAF employees and other volunteers were on hand at the College Goal Sunday sites to provide assistance.

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.

2008 Attendance by College Goal Sunday Site:

Billings — 168  
Bozeman — 128  
Browning — 148  
Butte — 83  
Crow Agency — Results not available  
Glendive — 36  
Great Falls — 146  
Harlem — 20  
Havre — 62  
Helena — 171  
Kalispell — 147  
Lame Deer — 34  
Libby — 59  
Miles City — 61  
Missoula — 219  
Pablo — 90  
Wolf Point — 77  
Total — 1,649

*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 \$10 million. For more information, visit [www.SmartAboutCollege.org](http://www.SmartAboutCollege.org) or [www.safmt.org](http://www.safmt.org).*