

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**SAF Awards \$115,000 in Circle of Succe\$\$ Grants**

(HELENA) Child care. Gasoline. Rent. These are just a few of the items Montana students will pay for using \$115,000 in Circle of Succe\$\$ grant funds awarded in January by nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF).

This marks the third year SAF employees contributed money through payroll deductions to help Montana students continue their postsecondary education through the grant program, formerly known as the Acce\$\$ Circle grant program. Funds raised from last summer's SAF Golf Scramble and Excursion also contributed to the total grant amount.

Between the two efforts, SAF collected enough money to distribute 115, \$1,000 grants to students from communities throughout the state.

Tess Hatfield, a junior at Montana State University – Billings, was one of the grant recipients. In her application, she explained that the Circle of Succe\$\$ grant money would provide some relief in her busy schedule, which includes working part time, participating in student government and studying psychology.

“Growing up in a single parent household, my mother showed me the value of a postsecondary education,” Hatfield wrote. “I feel that with aid I can go forward, debt free, as a productive graduate, and help the community that I love.”

Stephanie (Nikki) Hawe, who is attending school at The University of Montana Western in Dillon, said the grant she received will go a long way to helping her maintain her 4.0 GPA in Secondary Education – English.

“Please know that your donation has made it possible for me to work toward continuing my education so that I can share my knowledge with young minds,” she wrote, adding that she will mark the fourth generation in her family to teach in Montana.

Marti Johnson, grants manager for SAF, said the committee charged with evaluating the applications was greatly affected by the stories of all the grant applicants — a fact that made it particularly difficult to narrow the field and select who should benefit from the available funds.

“It’s our privilege to provide these grants to students to help them on their path to achieving their dreams of college education,” she said. “We’re so pleased that the program continues to grow every year, allowing us to have a greater role in educating Montana’s youth.”

*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).*

## **Grant Recipients by County**

### **Beaverhead**

Stephanie (Nikki) Hawe  
Steven Hilton  
Mitchell Jessen

### **Big Horn**

Patricia Eastman  
Wes Spotted Bear

### **Blaine**

Chelsea McCann  
Sherry Bishop

### **Butte/Silver Bow**

Megan Schneiter  
Jodi Bartscher  
Stephanie Ouellette  
Brandon Warner  
Elisabeth Fandrigh  
Stephanie Gruss  
Tammy Gordon

### **Carter**

Merle Kalstrom  
Tandi Schneider

### **Cascade**

Denice Neumann  
Tavie Bunker  
Danyelle Long  
Nicole Stafford  
Deanna Montgomery

### **Choteau**

Jenny Silvan  
Andrea Juedeman

**Custer**

Ronda Fuhrman  
Katherine Hosbein

**Dawson**

Daniel Dutton  
Jamey Pettersen

**Deer Lodge**

Jessica Ostrom  
Christopher Seymour

**Fergus**

Jennifer Hicks  
Candice Rodriguez

**Flathead**

Heather Hines  
Leslie Farrell  
Bryan Lamm  
Ashley Hallett  
Aaron Hove  
Ashley McCurdy  
Alia Albertowicz  
Kristin Karpinski

**Gallatin**

Jennifer Holfeld  
Cory Talbott  
Jordan Pratt  
Sarah Nordlund

**Glacier**

Angela Bacon  
Janet Preuss  
Jerci Powell  
Marcia St. Goddard  
Deanne Morris  
Shelley Bohannon-Vielle

**Hill**

Tyler Crossley  
Sunny Whalawitsa  
Cody McLean  
Melinda Morrison  
Louann LaSalle  
Sarina Eckman

**Jefferson**

Kristen Clements  
Dorothy Sizemore

**Lake**

Jennifer Lossing  
Christine McKenzie  
LeEllen McLeod  
Sonja Heutmaker

**Lewis and Clark**

Jessica Nakagawa  
Amea Schwitters  
Taylor Robinson  
Jeremy Hovden  
Cyrus Malkin

**Lincoln County**

Nichole Anderson  
Emma Simuns

**Madison**

Nate Lester

**McCone**

Bryce Hove  
Brittany Hove

**Missoula**

Cody Schliebe  
Zara Hanson  
Jonathan Warner  
Stacey McClure  
Haylee Linville  
Chelsea Choat  
Jessica Finley  
Chandra Moles

**Park**

Mariah Rees

**Petroleum County**

Chelsea McKenna

**Phillips**

Stella Ereaux

**Pondera**

Charla Tordale-Gilbert

Melissa Habets

**Powell**

Kara Janes

**Ravalli**

Melissa Ireland

**Roosevelt**

Carl Failing

Michelle Hove

**Rosebud**

Sarah Sommerfeld

**Sanders**

Jackie Perrin

**Sheridan**

Benjamin Urdahl

Sandi Nelson

**Stillwater**

Emily Cossitt

Joseph Studiner

**Teton**

Teresa Turville

Stephanie Wagner

Amanda Dutton

Christopher Tacke

Michael Adams

Jordan Ratliff

**Toole**

Adam Wabeke

Janna Tomsheck

Cherry Tomsheck

**Valley**

Kara Reigel

**Wibaux**

Allyssa Harrell

**Yellowstone**

Deborah Hassan

Tess Hatfield

Michele Harkness

Julie Jeffers

Joel Traywick

Angela Cravens

Bonnie Nees

Laura Thompson

Carrie Wallace

Lorin Granger