

College Goal Montana Events for High School Graduates

Free help for students and parents tasked with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – an essential stepping stone to attaining federal, state and institutional aid – will be available at College Goal Montana events in communities across the state in February.

Employees of nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF), financial aid officers and volunteers will gather at several locations on February 8 and/or February 12, 2012, to offer one-on-one instruction completing this important form. In addition, SAF is hosting free College Goal Montana webinars in many communities during the months of January and February. Webinar participants listen to a 30-minute presentation about the FAFSA, log on to fafsa.gov and complete the form. Help from site hosts and subject matter experts via telephone will be available. Visit <http://www.smartaboutcollege.org> and click on the "College Goal Montana" sign to find events that are scheduled for your community.

Research shows that 44 percent of individuals living below the federal poverty line reported using public library computers and Internet access. Among those aged 14 to 24 in low-income households, 61 percent used public library computers and Internet for education purposes. This population – low-income, at-risk, first-generation, college-going youths – is the one that SAF is trying hardest to reach to provide information about College Goal Montana.

As such, SAF would like to propose a partnership with Montana libraries that would allow us to use Montana library channels to conduct outreach and share College Goal Montana information with potential postsecondary students. SAF offers a wide range of free publicity materials including College Goal Montana tear-off posters, fliers and more that we would be pleased to send you for placement in your library. If you have questions, or would like to request materials, please e-mail Rhonda Safford, College Goal Montana state coordinator, at rsafford@safmt.org, or call (406) 495-7750, 2500 Broadway, Helena, MT 59601.

The staff at SAF look forward to working with you to help students and build a college-going Montana!

Contact Pad McCracken, Teen Services Librarian, Lewis & Clark Library, 120 South Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601, or e-mail at pmccracken@mtlib.org, or call (406) 447-1690, extension 132.