



## **Reach Higher Montana Provides Access Grants To Help Address STEM Scholarship Shortfall**

### ***Reach Higher Montana Implements Emergency Grant Program To Help 301 Students with One-Time Financial Assistance***

**MONTANA – Wednesday, January 11, 2017** – Earlier this week, Reach Higher Montana created an emergency grant program to help meet the needs of many students impacted by the shortfall in funding for the spring 2017 State of Montana Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) scholarships. Reach Higher Montana, a Montana-based non-profit organization dedicated to guiding, preparing and supporting Montana students in their efforts to reach their potential through higher education, expects to provide grants to assist 301 Montana higher education students whose STEM Scholarships were cancelled.

Reach Higher Montana is providing funds to the affected campuses through its Access Grant program in a one-time only allocation totaling \$232,000. Students eligible for Reach Higher Montana's access grants will receive notification through their campus financial aid office.

"We appreciate the leadership demonstrated by our board in authorizing this one-time expenditure to help these students," said Kelly Cresswell, Executive Director of Reach Higher Montana. "In this unfortunate circumstance, we recognize these students have done what they can to earn these STEM scholarships and are adversely affected due to circumstances well-beyond their control."

#### **About Reach Higher Montana:**

Based in Helena, Reach Higher Montana is the public benefit partnership between Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) and the Montana Higher Education Student Assistance Corporation (MHESAC). The purpose of Reach Higher Montana is to guide, prepare and support Montana students in their efforts to reach their potential through higher education. Reach Higher Montana offers a range of programs that includes outreach and education finance planning.

**Learn more about Reach Higher Montana at [www.reachhighermontana.org](http://www.reachhighermontana.org)**