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PRESS RELEASE

Blackfoot Delivers \$16,000 in Scholarship Assistance to College Bound

June 2, 2009 Missoula, Mont – Over thirty graduates from eleven western Montana high schools received a combined total of \$16,000 in scholarship assistance. After considering over 65 applications from high school seniors throughout their service areas, the Blackfoot Telecommunications Group (Blackfoot) Board of Trustees selected the most driven and outstanding students in western Montana.

“From nursing to teaching, firefighting to pre-med, this was an impressive year for an exceptionally talented group of applicants. It was difficult making decisions for the scholarships. We considered academic ability, community service, need and character in making the selections for the best and the brightest who demonstrated a determination to further their education and become productive members of society,” said Blackfoot Board President Tom Eggensperger.

Blackfoot is proud to announce the recipients of their 2009 scholarship education program:

Arlee High School: Cubby Pierre, Trevor Rice and Carlee Allestad

Charlo High School: Shianne Montgomery, Turquoise Devereaux and Rochelle Toussaint

Drummond High School: Levi Coughlin, Brittney Jacobsen and Rebecca Lapka

Granite High School: Ashley Boomer and Addie Lepley

Noxon High School: Caleb Matthew and Bethany Brown

Plains High School: Brandon Read, Steven Reistroffer and Mitchell Thompson

Powell County High School: Bobbi Jo Beck

St. Ignatius High School: Kelsey Cable, Lisa Larsson, Wyatt McCollum and Jordan Adams

Seeley Swan High School: Aleshia Johnson, Kevin Jones, Lindsey Meade, Catalina Parcell and Nathan Wood

Superior High School: Brian Labbe and Travis Stroot

Thompson Falls High School: Megan Fitchett, Skyler Kinkade, Delcie Peters and Andrew Pfalze

Since 2002, Blackfoot has contributed over \$125,000 to high school seniors living in their service areas. In addition to its scholarship program, Blackfoot supports education by partnering each year with Missoula Electric and Energy Partners to donate technology equipment to rural schools in western Montana through their Electronic Education Equipment (EEE) program. Founded in 1989, EEE has contributed over \$360,000 in necessary educational equipment; such as hardware, software, projectors, and digital cameras, to name a few.

To learn more about Blackfoot, please visit www.blackfoot.com. Connect Globally. Partner Locally.

About Blackfoot Telecommunications Group

Named after the Blackfoot River running through much of the territory it serves, the Blackfoot (Blackfoot) Telecommunications Group was originally established in 1954 as Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative. Blackfoot offers state-of-the-art telecommunications, Internet and data solutions to customers in Missoula and throughout Montana and Idaho. Headquartered in Missoula, Montana, Blackfoot employs more than 150 Montanans. Blackfoot can be reached at 406-541-5000 or through its web site at <http://www.blackfoot.com>.

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