

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission Members

From: Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian, Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

Date: July 17, 2009

Re: **Montana State Library (MSL)/Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) scholarships for the 2009 Montana Association for the Blind's (MAB)/Summer Orientation Program (SOP).**

All recipients received their scholarship certificates at graduation on July 10, 2009, at Carroll College.

Approved scholarship recipient list (8 students).

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|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Borgen, Carole | Kalispell |
| 2. Callantine, Pansy | Townsend |
| 3. Carlson, Wilma | Lewistown |
| 4. Casey, Eleanor | Helena |
| 5. Grant, Evelyn | Columbia Falls |
| 6. Guslander, James | Lewistown |
| 7. House, David | Missoula |
| 8. Moffett, Wanda | Missoula |

Criteria for Receiving a one-time scholarship of \$1,000. to attend the 2009 Montana Association for the Blind's (MAB) Summer Orientation Program (SOP):

No more than ten \$1,000 scholarships were approved by the Montana State Library Commission in February, 2009, for distribution to no more than ten Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) patrons who met the following criteria and have been accepted to attend the MAB/SOP:

- 1) Established patron of MTBL
(Active at least six months on MTBL services)
- 2) First time attendee at MAB-SOP
- 3) In Good Standing (IGS) over the duration of being an MTBL patron
Definition of IGS: on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being the best) the patron averages at least a 4 in the following areas:
 - a) takes good care of equipment and books
 - b) returns books and equipment in the loan period allotted
 - c) personal contact and book information is kept up to date

Comments from an MTBL/MSL scholarship recipient about MAB/SOP:

David House, Missoula

"Thank you for this wonderful four week crash course on how to be blind with a smile. The skills I have learned this past month have boosted my confidence immensely. I have a much better outlook about blindness and life in general because of the Summer Orientation Program. I thoroughly enjoyed my friendly classmates, the great food, and comfortable accommodations at Carroll College. The seven classes I took were extremely helpful. My Braille, keyboarding, and cane travel skills definitely improved thanks to the excellent instruction I received. I feel much better about using a computer because of the instructor's expertise and patience. The Discussion class was a real emotional lift and very thought provoking. Activities of Daily Living were very practical on how to succeed in the real world as a blind person. I found Exercise class to be quite fun. I even managed to learn a few dance steps. I truly believe that blindness can be reduced to the level of a mere physical nuisance with the right training and proper attitude. The blind of Montana are extremely blessed to have such dedicated people involved in the Summer Orientation Program. Thanks again for these past four weeks of inspirational instruction and confidence building."

* David House expresses his gratitude to the Montana State Library Commission for providing him with partial tuition expenses to receive training at the MAB/SOP. His experience included MT Talking Book Library classes. The opportunity given to David has had a direct impact on his life skills as a person with blindness as well as how we can better serve David with specialized library materials.

- Christie O. Briggs, Supervisor, MT Talking Book Library

All above patrons have given their permission to have their names and comments included in this report.