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MEDIA RELEASE

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EXCELLENCE FUND NEARS GOAL

The University of Montana Excellence Fund Drive has reached 94 percent of its \$60,000 goal, Gayle Walton, assistant director of the University Foundation, said Wednesday. A total of \$56,500 has been received in pledges and donations.

"Giving from individuals is up this year," Walton said. She said many businesses that have been hard hit by the economy have made pledges for next year.

Col. Tom Davis, chairman of this year's drive, said, "There are still many calls that were assigned that have not been reported. If these calls are made, we'll go over the top."

The drive is conducted by local volunteers who call on businesses and individuals to raise private funds for the University. Contributions are used for a variety of special projects that otherwise would not be funded.

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