

WEDNESDAY

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**Whitney Benefits
Commits Gift to
Sheridan College. A3**



W. 2015 WHITNEY BENEFITS COMMUNITY REPORT

WHITNEY BENEFITS

Educational Summit Forum

On March 10, 2015, Whitney Benefits hosted the second annual Education Summit Forum at the Edward A. Whitney Center at Sheridan College. Local educators, government representatives, members of philanthropic foundations and others were in attendance to discuss education issues in Sheridan and Johnson counties, specifically college readiness options for high school students. The intent was to bring together various stakeholders and hear from education administrators about the current accomplishments and challenges of area school districts and educational institutions as well as their future hopes and goals. The summit was opened with a talk by the 2014 Wyoming teacher of the year and SCSD#2 employee Mick Wiest discussing "The Missing 'C' in College and Career Readiness Standards." This speech was followed by a faculty panel with representatives from the Sheridan and Johnson County school districts and Sheridan College. The panel discussed why we should provide students with college opportunities while they are still in high school. This was followed by a second panel of students from the Sheridan and Johnson County high schools and Sheridan College. They discussed why high school students might choose to take college courses while still in high school.

\$500,000 for Sheridan College Technical Vocational Center

Whitney Benefits gifted \$500,000 to Sheridan College for improvements to their aging Technical Vocation Center. The gift was matched by \$500,000 in contributions from private individuals. Those improvements, which are already underway, will include a 2,500 sq. ft. addition and 5,000 sq. ft. renovation to the Machine Tool Technology space and a 1,200 sq. ft. addition and 7,000 sq. ft. renovation to the Diesel Technology, Welding Technology and Construction Technology Areas.



Whitney Continues Support for Sheridan College Thorne Rider Campus Center

Whitney continues to donate funds for the renovation and expansion of the Thorne-Rider Campus Center at Sheridan College. In 2015, Whitney gifted \$1,250,000 for this project as part of their \$1,500,000 gift to Sheridan College in support of their \$11.7 million renovation and expansion project of the Thorne-Rider Campus Center and the creation of an outdoor landscaped plaza connecting the Campus Center and the Whitney Building. One-half, or \$750,000, of the gift will support the building itself and the additional \$750,000 will support the plaza. An additional \$250,000 was also gifted to improve and update utilities and

telecommunications in this area. The previous student center building was built in 1966 and was sized to accommodate 100 students living on campus. The college now has 400+ students living on campus. The Thorne-Rider Campus Center is located at the hub of the campus and the new design encourages everyone on campus to spend some time there. The previous 16,000 square foot building was completely renovated and 12,000 square feet was added to the campus center. Food service is now organized food court style, with six open preparation and service areas, a pizza and coffee shop and flexible furniture in various styles to sup-

port an educational atmosphere. The dining area can now seat up to 500 people on the upper level and will support the plan for 750 students living on campus within the next decade plus about 250 commuter students and employees daily. Other features in the space include an activities room, multi-purpose meeting rooms, campus safety offices and a Veterans Center to service the 120 Veterans currently enrolled at Sheridan College. Whitney thanks all of the donors and private foundations involved in this project for their continued financial commitment to Sheridan College.

Whitney Continues Support of High Demand Programs at Sheridan College; Thanks Other Donors for Their Help

In March 2013, Whitney Benefits announced the creation of the Jobs, Education and Technology (JET) Program. The program is a partnership with Sheridan College and other potential sponsors and will include funding four new instructor positions for five years. The positions will be in areas where there is tremendous demand for educated, skilled workers. The total cost to add four full-time teachers is approximately \$400,000 per year or \$2 million over five years. The total pledge from Whitney Benefits is one-half of the \$2 million, or \$1 million, toward this effort. In 2015, Whitney Benefits donated \$475,000 for this project. The agreement is meant to allow SC to expand the offerings in such high demand areas as Machine Tool Technology, Diesel Technology, Welding Technology, Agriculture/Horticulture and Performing Arts. In order to fully realize the plan, Whitney Benefits trustees looked to others in the community to match their pledge.

The City of Sheridan matched the yearly pledge for the Machine Tool Technology faculty position and the Perkins Foundation matched the yearly pledge for the Welding Technology Faculty position. An anonymous donor matched Whitney's yearly pledge for the General Arts/Visual Arts faculty position and a second anonymous donor funded the Agricultural Science faculty position. **Whitney Benefits would like to extend a special thanks to these donors for their support of Sheridan College!**



Renovation and expansion of the fine and performing arts wing located at the north end of the current Whitney Building, referred to as the Whitney Center for the Arts, will include space to enrich the learning experience for all students. In addition to improvements to learning spaces for music and other performing arts, the Whitney gift will provide flexible, creative space to support the fine arts programs including wood and metal fabrication labs, foundry space for pouring aluminum, bronze and eventually iron and multi-use exhibition space.



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Gift for Sheridan College Welding Equipment

In 2015, Whitney Benefits gifted \$27,000 to Sheridan College for additional welding equipment to enhance the Welding Technology Program. Sheridan College purchased carbon arc equipment to meet the requirements of concurrent enrollment with Tongue River High School.

Gift to Expand Sheridan College Campus

In 2015, Whitney Benefits gifted Sheridan College properties on Smith Street valued at \$181,000 as part of Sheridan College's participation in a new Day Break facility for seniors to be located adjacent to the current Senior Center. These properties were used as a match for a Wyoming Business Council grant to construct the new elder care center, allowing the Senior Center to complete its goal for the Day Break Campaign.

The partnership between Sheridan College and the Sheridan Senior Center provides students the unique opportunity to learn and work with elders in the Day Break center. The elders will benefit from the interaction with Sheridan College students and staff. The new facility will be used to create additional high-tech learning laboratories for Sheridan College areas of study such as culinary arts, horticulture, nursing, massage therapy and dental hygiene.

\$200,000 Gift for Sheridan College Health Science

In 2015, Whitney Benefits gifted \$200,000 to Sheridan College for renovations to the health science wing on the Sheridan College campus and for renovations at the Sheridan College Simulation Center located on Broadway Street in Sheridan, WY. Renovated space will create high-tech laboratories for students studying in the Dental Hygiene, Nursing and Massage Therapy fields. The upgrades to the Sim Center included adding a one-way mirror to the high-fidelity room which will enhance the learning opportunities for students.

Gift for CNA Instructor at Sheridan College

In 2015, Whitney approved a three year commitment to gift a total of \$185,400 to Sheridan College for a half-time Certified Nursing Instructor. \$125,200 was paid out in 2015.

The CNA program has been a great addition to the Sheridan College nursing department and recently the classroom component of the class has been offered in an online format which makes it more accessible to students. The students perform their clinical hours at one of the long term care facilities and generally only travel to campus to practice their skills and test. The benefits to students and the community from the CNA program include:

- The CNA course is an entry level course that may lead to a lifelong career choice or serve as a stepping stone to a career in nursing or medicine. Many of the current Sheridan College nursing students work as CNA's while they attend nursing school.
- There is currently an extreme shortage of CNA's across Wyoming so students receiving this certification are guaranteed employment upon completion. The Sheridan Center for a Vital Community is supporting a grassroots effort to address the need for quality care for the elderly in the home and in care centers. A crucial piece is adequate numbers of well-trained Certified Nursing Assistants. According to the Bureau of Labor and AARP, by the year 2020, CNA jobs will increase by 22% and CNA/Home Health Aide jobs will increase by 48%.

Gift for Multiple Programs at Sheridan College

In 2015, Whitney Benefits gifted \$1,021,800 to Sheridan College for machine tool, nursing, dental, culinary and welding programs at Sheridan College.

Machine Tool Technology

Purchases for the Machine Tool Technology program allowed an improved student to equipment ratio which gives students more opportunities for hands-on time with the equipment. Whitney Benefits funds purchased one additional manual lathe, three additional manual mills, additional Computerized-Numerical-Control (CNC) mills and CNC lathes. In addition to these purchases, Sheridan College was able to make repairs to some of the older equipment in the shop and upgrade the CNC equipment. An optical comparator was purchased so students can magnify their work and see the detail in their work. With these funds, Sheridan College also equipped the lab with tool boxes and tools to reduce wait time for students and upgraded some of the Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM).

Culinary Art

Purchases of equipment for Sheridan College's culinary program has provided for new restaurant grade chafers, fryers, food processors and a new PacoJet, a specialized Swiss device which allows chefs to 'micropurée' fresh or frozen foods into ultralight mousses, naturally fresh ice creams and sorbets or aromatic soups, sauces or fillings.

Nursing

The funds from Whitney Benefits were used to purchase a simulation product called Sim View for the Sheridan College nursing program. This product will be used to enhance the simulation experience as it provides high quality cameras which will improve clarity and high quality microphones which will enhance the ability to hear what students are saying. Additionally, it has the ability to zoom in on a particular area such as visualizing a student drawing up a medication or putting on sterile gloves, a time stamped video log that records exactly when a patient event happens, and the program allows for sharing of video files so a student can view themselves in a simulation scenario on their own computer. Sheridan College also purchased two static manikins for the nursing lab on campus which have been a wonderful update as they are much lighter to handle and have more capabilities to promote student learning.

Dental Hygiene

Whitney Benefits funds were used to purchase equipment to upgrade the Sheridan College Dental Hygiene radiology facilities. Now, twelve students can be accommodated so patients and students are not waiting for shared equipment. Other purchases include new technology for plaque removal to expose students to this equipment and also do some comparative testing as an in-house research and evaluation project.

Welding Program

Sheridan College purchased 15 Lincoln multi-process machines with funding from Whitney Benefits. These machines allow students to experience various techniques including aluminum spool gun welding.

Whitney Benefits Commits \$25.3 Million to Sheridan College

In 2014, Whitney Benefits committed to the largest gift in the history of Sheridan College in the amount of \$25.3 million. In 2015, Whitney continued to fund this extraordinary gift. The commitment from Whitney Benefits to Sheridan College includes the necessary \$1.3 million required to complete the \$8 million Mars Agriculture and Science Center renovation project, \$16 million to support the renovation and expansion of the fine and performing arts wing of the original Whitney Building, \$2 million to support infrastructure and parking improvements on the main campus and \$6 million for approximately half of the Tech Center renovation and expansion project. "Currently, we serve over 2,000 students per semester," SC President Dr. Paul Young said. "This plan and infusion of energy and capital will significantly aid in our efforts to grow the academic areas that align with the local job sectors experiencing growth and positive change." The renovation and expansion of the fine and performing arts wing located at the north end of the current Whitney Building, referred to as the Whitney Center for the Arts, will include space to enrich the learning experience for all students. In addition to improvements to learning spaces for music and other performing arts, the Whitney gift will provide flexible, creative space to support fine arts programs including wood and metal fabrication labs, foundry space for pouring aluminum, bronze and eventually iron and multi-use exhibition space.

The Mars Agriculture Center will be a 13,000 to 15,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility to be located

on the south end of Sheridan College's main campus connecting to the existing Science Center, which will also receive upgrades during the project. The center will focus on providing real-world experiences for students. In addition to high-tech classrooms, a herbarium, a greenhouse and a soils and agroecology lab, the new center will include a computerized commodities trading floor classroom for students studying in the ag-business program. "The real benefit to laying out a plan like this is that the dollars committed can be leveraged time and time again," Whitney Benefits Trustee Everett McGlothlin said. "We are hopeful that others will continue to support the students of Sheridan College in order to continue the positive momentum and help change lives."

The \$6 million earmarked for the expansion and renovation of the Technical Education Center is approximately half of the total needed to provide a healthier, safer and more secure facility for students to gain vocational degrees and employable skills. College officials plan to request the additional funds from the State of Wyoming during the 2016 legislative session. "Our strategic direction focuses on doing our part to help Wyoming and the nation as a whole to prosper. We are so very fortunate to have many, many people here who believe in this goal and are willing to take action on behalf of the future generations who will continue to benefit from their efforts for years to come," Young said. "Thank you to Whitney Benefits." Sheridan College officials hope to have the projects completed by late summer of 2016.

Whitney Continues Support of Educational Arts Project

Whitney donated funds to Sheridan College for access and educational programming at the Bradford Brinton Museum. In 2015, Whitney gifted \$800,000 for this project as part of their \$1,000,000 gift to Sheridan College for the educational arts project. The grant assures access and programming space for students from Sheridan and Johnson County schools as well as Sheridan College students to have access free of charge to the Brinton Museum for year round educational art, science and history programs, illustrator shows, art workshops, gallery tours and artistic exhibitions.

\$750,000 for Housing at Sheridan College

Whitney continues to donate funds to Sheridan College for their student housing. In 2008, Whitney committed to gifting \$750,000 per year for ten years as part of their \$7.5 million gift to Sheridan College for their continued support of efforts to expand the on-campus living facilities. The newly added 150 bed suite style student housing units have vastly expanded Sheridan College's ability to recruit and house new students. The Whitney Lofts also added a new food court area in the Hayes Building and a recreational lounge area in the newly constructed Williams building. The new housing at Sheridan College provides a new and unique opportunity for students to grow, foster educational opportunities, and enjoy their college educations.

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Whitney Commons Park

Whitney Commons, an interactive park located in the center of Sheridan between the Fulmer Library and the Senior Center at 320 West Alger, has something for everyone to enjoy. Several features include a universally accessible play structure designed for fun and safety, large turf areas supporting any number of informal leisure activities, the popular water spray grounds, an amphitheater and plaza area, vintage lighting illuminating pedestrian walks and bike paths, the Dorothy King reflective flower garden and closed circuit cameras providing park security and on-line viewing. Bronze art pieces reflecting and honoring Mr. Whitney's life have also added beauty and interest to the park. Whitney Benefits completed several projects and renovation repairs to areas of the park this year including: updating the summer banners, replacing two slides in the playground area, adding two more picnic tables, the purchase of a new tractor and aerator slicer and planting more flowers and greenery in the many plant beds. Whitney Commons is a safe, clean and fun environment for families and the Sheridan community to enjoy!



Whitney Commons is an interactive park located in the center of Sheridan between the Fulmer Library and the Senior Center at 320 West Alger. There's something to do for everyone!

Interest Free Student Loan Program

The Whitney student loan program provides interest free student loans to Sheridan and Johnson County High School graduates. Since inception of the program in 1928, through June 30, 2015, the corporation has loaned 5,597 students approximately \$38,336,753.82. For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015 Whitney approved interest free loans totaling \$1,831,016.89 to 98 students; 77 students received loans for the first time and 21 students had received loans previously. As of June 30, 2015, Whitney has \$13,428,196 in student loan monies loaned and/or committed to Sheridan and Johnson County students.

Whitney Benefits has launched an online student loan application process. This process was a first step in allowing Whitney to go to a paperless system and also meets the electronic preference of current high school graduates.

The Whitney staff presents the student loan program information each year at the Sheridan and Johnson County High Schools' Financial Aid nights in an effort to inform the community about this unique and valuable opportunity. For the 2015-2016 school year, undergraduate students may be eligible to borrow a credit limit up to \$24,000, up to \$6,000 per academic year.

Whitney Benefits acknowledges and thanks the Homer A. Scott and Mildred S. Scott Foundation for their past \$250,000 gift to further the commitment to provide interest free student loans.

Alzheimer's Memory Walk

The Senior Center hosted the Alzheimer's Memory Walk in Whitney Commons Park on September 2, 2015. This walk was to show support to those suffering from Alzheimer's and their families.



The Gift of Water

In 2015, Whitney Benefits gifted the City of Sheridan in excess of 50 million gallons of stored Park Reservoir water to assist in watering Sheridan's thirteen parks, pathways and greenways, including the Sheridan Recreation District Thornerider Park, Oatts Baseball Complex, the Whitney soccer field at the YMCA and the elk pasture irrigation and restoration project at Kendrick Park. Additionally, Whitney contributes water to the University of Wyoming Science and Research Center located at Whitney's Adams ranch for students and educators with experimental test plots, grape vineyards and crop irrigation.

WHITNEY FOUNDATION CONTINUES CERTIFICATION FOR FIDUCIARY EXCELLENCE

The CEFEX standard of excellence for Investment Stewards is based on fiduciary practices that seek to increase long-term investment performance by diversifying the portfolio across multiple asset classes and peer groups, evaluating investment management fees and expenses, and selecting or terminating Investment Managers. Investment Stewards, such as Whitney Benefits Trustees and staff, have the primary responsibility for effective management and the adherence to investment fiduciary practices. Benefits of fiduciary assessments include: establishing evidence that Whitney is following a prudent investment process; increases long-term investment performance by identifying appropriate procedures for diversifying the portfolio across multiple asset classes and peer groups, evaluating investment management fees and expenses and selecting and terminating Investment Managers as appropriate. This fiduciary practice uncovers investment and procedural risks not previously identified, which assists in prioritizing investment management projects. This practice encourages Whitney to compare their practices to their peers, and assists in establishing benchmarks to measure Whitney's efforts. Whitney Benefits places the highest fiduciary importance on having the best practices in place.

By its certification, Whitney can validate its adherence in fiduciary management and demonstrates that Whitney trustees and staff regard independent oversight of its financial activities as paramount.

Information on these fiduciary practices can be viewed by clicking on Whitney's on-line CEFEX certificate at www.whitneybenefits.org.



Investment Steward Certification Validated
10/1/2015

The Link, Partners in Pink Run/Walk

The Link ~ Partners in Pink 7th Annual Run & Walk was held on Saturday, October 17, 2015 beginning at 10 am. The events offered were a 10K run, a 5K run/walk and a 1.5 mile walk. The races started and ended in Whitney Commons Park. This event is organized by the Sheridan Memorial Hospital Foundation to raise funds to support breast health programs and patient comfort care in Sheridan County. This year, there were over 700 registered participants and close to 100 volunteers involved with The Link activities. Proceeds are still being calculated but the Sheridan Memorial Hospital Foundation is hoping to have raised \$35,000-\$40,000 from the event.



4th Annual Sheridan Chamber of Commerce Brewfest

The Sheridan Chamber of Commerce hosted the 4th annual Chamber of Commerce Brewfest at Whitney Commons on August 29, 2015. Whitney Commons was the perfect venue for this event which had 1,500 participants and raised around \$38,000. This is the major fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce with funds dedicated to furthering the missions of their volunteer committees and to education and training opportunities for the Sheridan business community. They had 19 Brewers from Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota and Colorado. Brewers competed in a judged competition in IPA and a People's Choice Award.



Whitney Plaza

Whitney Plaza offers retail, office and residential property and has nearly 500 parking spaces for various community and business uses. The Whitney Plaza Owner's Association has extended complimentary use of the Whitney Plaza parking lots during Sheridan's annual WYO Rodeo parade and for multiple community events. Several construction projects are currently underway at Whitney Plaza. Cowboy State Bank has broken ground and plans its opening in early 2016. The "Whitney Rink at the M&M Center" enclosed ice arena has broken ground and plans to open in late fall 2015. A bistro restaurant has also broken ground and is currently being constructed. The building design of these new buildings in Whitney Plaza reflects that of properties located in Sheridan's historic downtown business district. Whitney Benefits and the Whitney Plaza Owner's Association welcome these businesses to the Whitney Plaza neighborhood.



JUSTIN SHEELY | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

Whitney Plaza Hosts 2015 Wyoming Rehab Hoop Jam

The Whitney Plaza Owner's Association hosted the 15th Annual Wyoming Rehab Hoop Jam at Whitney Plaza on June 6-7, 2015. This three on three basketball tournament was played by 137 teams from all across Wyoming with a variety of players aged from 7 to 50+. Whitney Plaza is the perfect venue for this event. The players and spectators made use of the ample parking lots at Whitney Plaza, the spectator areas along the Big Goose Creek trail and the centralized vendor area on Grinnell Plaza. Proceeds from the tournament support Sheridan County School District #2's Athletic Training Program and Wyoming Rehab's Sports Medicine Program. Hoop Jam is managed by a volunteer base, and this year over 100 volunteers helped to make the tournament a success.

Whitney Plaza Hosts 3rd KCBS Best of the West BBQ Fest

The Whitney Plaza Owner's Association hosted the 3rd Annual KCBS Sanctioned BBQ Fest cooking competition on August 28-29, 2015 at Whitney Plaza. There were 26 teams who competed in judged competitions for chicken, pork ribs, beef brisket and a People's Choice category in chicken wings. Teams came from Wyoming, Illinois, Arizona, South Dakota and Montana just to compete in Sheridan's KCBS BEST OF THE WEST BBQ FEST.

The Service Continues...Whitney Benefits Board of Trustees

Since 1927, when Whitney Benefits was created, 97 dedicated individuals have served on the Whitney Benefits Board of Trustees. All together, the Whitney Trustees to date have dedicated over 1,070 years of service supporting education and building our Sheridan community.

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 Janet Ludwig 1998-2001
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 Dave Ferries 2015-Present

Whitney Community Advisory Group

The Whitney Community Advisory Group was created in 2004 to provide input from various community members about current Whitney projects and events. The group helps to oversee operations at Whitney Commons and Whitney Plaza. The current 2015 Community members include: Steve Carroll, Mark Demple, Pete Eliason, Judy Stallman and John Standish.

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