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WHITNEY BENEFITS

Whitney continues support for Thorne Rider. A2



WHITNEY BENEFITS COMMUNITY REPORT

Computer skills for Sheridan and Johnson County students — Whitney commits \$233,661

Thanks goes to Sheridan and Johnson County School Boards and Sheridan College Trustees for working together for student

In 2016, the Whitney Board agreed to participate in several projects which would improve computer skills for Sheridan and Johnson county students. Whitney Benefits created the opportunity for all Sheridan County School Districts to participate in computer program training and equipment upgrades. Whitney's commitment for this project was \$183,661 in 2016 as well as \$50,000

to Sheridan College to upgrade their computer lab equipment. Three years' salary and benefits for a Sheridan College instructor to teach computer programming with the opportunity of participation by all Sheridan County School Districts was also committed for \$125,000 per year. The three year total offered by Whitney for these programs is \$890,686 to support and strengthen computer programs offered through Sheridan College to Sheridan County school students. The support from Whitney Benefits will allow the school districts, along

with Sheridan College, to align computer programming and computer science programs with the nationally recognized curriculum and teacher development model, "Project Lead the Way" (PLTW). PLTW will strengthen existing programming classes (large focus on computer coding) and provide a connection between secondary and post-secondary programs. Two classrooms on the main Sheridan College campus will be equipped to support the program. One room will be for use by secondary students; the second will support college students pursuing a degree.





From repairing heavy machinery to fusing metal parts for a tool, NWCCD Welding students experience hands-on learning in their Technical Education

Educational Summit held Nov. 14, 2016, Whitney Benefits bringing together stakeholders

On November 14, 2016, Whitney Benefits hosted the third annual Education Summit at the new Sheridan College Whitney Center for the Arts Concert Hall. Local educators, government representatives, members of philanthropic foundations, child care providers and others were in attendance to discuss early childhood education issues in Sheridan and Johnson counties as well as throughout the United States. The intent was to bring together various stakeholders to hear about their current accomplishments and challenges as well as their future hopes and goals.

The featured speaker for the Education Summit was Bob Sornson, Ph.D. He is an education leader calling for programs and practices which support competency based learning, early learning success and high quality early childhood learning programs. He is the founder of the Early Learning Foundation and works internationally with school districts, universities and parent organizations. He addressed the importance and challenges of developing community systems to help young children become successful learners and citizens. In today's society, our children can access the opportunities that innovation and emerging technologies present only if they have good learning skills, the capacity for hard work and the ability to collaborate with others.

In his remarks, Dr. Sornson discussed how early childhood learning outcomes affect the future for our children and our society, the key ingredients of a community plan which supports early childhood learning success and the commitment needed to build a community in which all children have an opportunity to succeed.

Dr. Sornson has written best-selling books for educators, parents and children, along with many journal publications. His books include Over-Tested and Under-Prepared: Using Competency Based Learning to Transform Our Schools (Routledge), Essential Math Skills (Shell Education), Fanatically Formative (Corwin Press), Stand in My Shoes: Kids Learning about Empathy (Love and Logic Press), The Juice Box Bully (Early Learning Foundation Press), Teaching and Joy (ASCD), and Creating Classrooms Where Teachers Love to Teach and Students Love to Learn (Love and Logic Press). He has offered workshops and keynotes in forty-seven states and in other nations. Bob Sornson's work focuses on early learning success, competency based learning, and the development of self-regulation and empathy. He lives with his wife Nancy in Brighton, MI, and can be contacted at bob@earlylearningfoundation.com.

JET = Jobs, education and technology \$2 million for programming and instructors over 5 years

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. 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!

Whitney gift for certified nursing instructor

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. 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:

1. 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.

2. 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%.





Improvements to security to protect artwork

In 2016, Whitney Benefits gifted \$69,000 to Sheridan College for security and environmental enhancements to the E.A. Whitney gallery in the new Whitney Center for the Arts building. This donation

will help ensure the security of Sheridan College artwork that could include the display of Whitney owned Gollings art that was purchased from Sheridan County School District #2.



\$250,000 to fund agriculture instruction position at college

In January 2016, Whitney Benefits committed to grant \$250,000 for three years to fund an Endowed Agriculture Instructor position at Sheridan College. This position was created to keep pace with increasing enrollment, educational excellence and educational research at Sheridan College. Additionally, the soon to be opened "Mars Agriculture Center", a 15,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility that is located on the south end of

Sheridan College's main campus connecting to the existing Science Center, has also increased prospective students interest in agriculture and sciences. 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.



NEW POSITIONS at Sheridan College

Whitney Benefits committed to funding three new positions at Sheridan College in 2016.

The first, \$80,000 per year for three years, will allow Sheridan College to hire an additional dance instructor. Dance is a growth area in the Performing Arts program at Sheridan College and an additional instructor will allow additional growth.

The second will be to hire a theater technician for \$30,000 in 2016, \$60,000 in 2017 and

\$60,000 in 2018. This position will assist as both an educator within the Center of the Arts building and help with new community productions and events to be held in the Center for the Arts Center.

The third position will be to hire a recruiter for technical programs for \$30,000 in 2016, \$60,000 in 2017 and \$60,000 in 2018. This position will be a specialized recruiter that seeks prospective students that are looking for vocational training.

The Foundation of Edward A. Whitney, Building a better community for youth and education

The portrait to the left show Whitney walking his Adams Ranch, a portion of which would soon become Sheridan College. The portrait, painted by Kathy Sabine, was specifically commissioned for the opening of the Edward A. Whitney Academic Center. You can find the portrait displayed above the central fireplace.

Sheridan area benefactor Edward A. Whitney willed his estate to establish Whitney Benefits, creating the first educational foundation in Wyoming. According to his original trustees, Whitney spent three decades of his life planning his gift to the people of Sheridan. He made extensive investigations in the East as to how trust funds were

The portrait to the left shows whitney walking his Adams anch, a portion of which rould soon become Sheridan college. The portrait, painted structured for education, and repeatedly asked his three associates, later to become the trustees of his estate, for suggestions.

The Foundation was established in 1927, ten years after his death in 1917, as provided by his will. In the years since the establishment of the Foundation the earnings from the trust have provided over \$39 million in interest-free loans to over 5,700 local students, contributed over \$81 million to Sheridan College, provided over \$11.7 million to the YMCA, built Whitney Commons Park and the Sheridan Ice Rink, established the Whitney Center and benefited the area and its people in many other ways.



"My estate does not belong to me; I'm only its steward: it belongs to the people and I dare not be careless with it." — Edward A. Whitney

\$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 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.

In 2016, Whitney Benefits also granted \$500,000 to Sheridan College to gut and renovate the existing family housing units. The space was repurposed to create 35 new beds which will better serve the needs of the college students.



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 2016, Whitney completed is final installment of \$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. Onehalf, or \$750,000, of the gift will support the building itself and the additional \$750,000 will support the plaza. Whitney gifted an additional \$250,000 in 2016 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 support 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 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 2016, Whitney continued to fund this extraordinary gift with a grant of \$2,129,455. 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

"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." They recently completed 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, includes 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.

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 class-rooms, 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 2017 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 2019.



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 renova-

tion repairs to areas of the park this year including: replacing the bathroom floors, purchasing and installing new tree guards, installing a new security camera system, purchasing a fertilizer spreader attachment 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!

Out Of The Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk

The 6th annual Out of the Darkness Walk was held on September 24, 2016.

Around 200 people braved the rainy and windy weather to participate in the event.

Registration and the opening presentation were moved to

the YMCA due to the weather, but the two mile walk continued through Whitney Commons park as originally planned.

This walk provides the community with an opportunity to come together to remember

loved ones and shine a light on the stigma that surrounds suicide and mental health problems.

The event was hosted by the Wyoming Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.





5th annual Sheridan Chamber of Commerce Brewfest

The Sheridan Chamber of Commerce hosted the 5th annual Suds 'n Spurs Brewfest at Whitney Commons on

August 27, 2016. Whitney Commons was the perfect venue for this event which had 1,500 participants

and raised around \$40,000.

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 busi-

ness community. They had 19 Brewers from Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, Colorado and Utah.

Brewers competed in a judged competition in Belgian Brew and a People's Choice Award.

PRIVATE EVENTS

Whitney Commons is a perfect location for many private events including weddings, birthday parties and reunions!

The unique features of a universally accessible play structure, large turf areas,

the water spray-grounds, the Dorothy King reflective flower garden, an amphitheater and plaza area and vintage lighting create a perfect environment for a variety of events. In 2016, Whitney Commons hosted several Cloud Peak

Volleyball Club volleyball tournaments in the west park turf area, weddings in the reflective garden and amphitheater areas and birthday parties at the playground and spray-ground areas.









THE LINK, Partners in Pink Run/Walk

The Link ~ Partners in Pink 8th Annual Run & Walk was held on Saturday, October 15, 2016 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 upgrade Sheridan Memorial Hospital's current digital mammography equipment to tomosynthesis (3D) mammography machine.

This year, there were over

500 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 nearly \$25,000 from the event.

Gift of water

In 2016, 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's Thorne Rider Park, Oatts Baseball Complex, Dan Media Soccer Field and the elk pas-

ture 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.

March Against Domestic Violence

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness month. The Advocacy and Resource Center in Sheridan and the Compass Center for Families teamed up to hold the "March Against Family Violence" which was held October 8, 2016 at Whitney Commons park. The Advocacy and Resource Center

in Sheridan provides assistance to victims of domestic violence that may not have anywhere else to turn or may have ended up in the justice system as a result of the violence. The march was to raise awareness of family violence and to show that healthy families make a healthy community.

ALZHEIMER'S MEMORY WALK

The Senior Center hosted the Alzheimer's Memory Walk in Whitney Commons Park on May 11, 2016 from 4-8pm.

This walk was to show support to those suffering from Alzheimer's and their families.

Heart to Hart Community 5K Walk/Run

The Heart to Hart Community 5K walk/run was held on September 10, 2016 in Whitney Commons park.

The event was intended to be a fundraiser for the Hart family for medical and other expenses.

Sheridan local Michael Hart was in a car accident on May 21, 2016. Mike passed away on August 23, 2016. The event was still held as a memorial to Mike's memory and to show support for the Hart family and friends.





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 have recently been completed at Whitney Plaza including the new Cowboy State Bank building and an office building being leased to the State of Wyoming Workforce Services and Family Services offices.

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!

Whitney Plaza hosts 4th KCBS Best of the West BBQ Fest

The Whitney Plaza Owner's Association hosted the 4th Annual KCBS Sanctioned Best of the West BBQ Fest cooking competition on August 12-13, 2016 at Whitney Plaza.

There were 26 teams, including 5 local teams, who competed in judged competitions for chicken, pork ribs, beef brisket and a People's Choice category in Best BBQ. The event is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society which is the governing body for professional event was free for the public to barbecue competitions. Teams

from Wyoming, Oklahoma, Arizona, South Dakota and Montana as well as over 30 judges came to compete in Sheridan's KCBS BEST OF THE WEST BBQ FEST. The attend.



Special Olympics Jackalope Jump

The Whitney Plaza Owner's Association hosted the 2016 Jackalope Jump.

Nearly a decade long tradition, the event featured 15 jumpers plunging into ice cold water in a temporary pool setup at Whitney Plaza. It was a sunny day with the temperature around 40 degrees when the athletes braved the challenge.

The Jackalope Jump is a state wide event raising funds for the Special Olympics. This year's event raised over \$6,500 for this great







STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

free student loans to Sheridan and Johnson County High School graduates. Since inception of the program school graduates. in 1928, through June 30, 2016, the corporation has loaned 5,722 students approximately \$39,977,207.23. For the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016, Whitney approved interest free loans totaling \$2,730,050.28 to 125 students; 97 students received loans for the first time and 28 students had received loans previously. As of June 30, 2016, Whitney has \$13,581,591.04 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

The Whitney student loan program provides interest in allowing Whitney to go to a paperless system and also meets the electronic preference of current high

> 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 2016-2017 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.

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** 10/01/16

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 2016 Community members include: Steve Carroll, Mark Demple, Pete Eliason, Judy Stallman and John Standish.

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 1,083 years of service supporting education and building our Sheridan community.

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Candy Hardesty 1998-1999 Janet Ludwig 1998-2001 Tom Belus 2000-Present **Tom Kinnison 2000-Present** Gary Koltiska 2000-2003 Tim Tarver 2000-2004 Tom Throne 2000-2003 Kim Love 2001-Present Val Burgess 2002-2013 Mary Ellen McWilliams 2002-2005 John Patton 2002-2002 Dr. Sy Thickman 2002-2002 Maureen Humphrys 2003-2015 Peter Schoonmaker 2004-Present Samuel S. Street 2005-2014 Stephen Holst 2006-Present **Everett E. McGlothin 2006-Present** Robert Prusak 2013-Present Lori McMullen 2014-Present Lynie Phipps 2014-Present Tom Pilch 2014-Present **Dave Ferries 2015-Present**