

Memo

To: Sheridan County Media
From: Patrick Henderson
CC: Assessment folder
Date: 6/26/2001
Re: Sheridan County Educational Needs Assessment

Whitney Benefits Inc, a private Sheridan County foundation, is pleased to announce that Dr. Mariam Manley from Jackson Hole, Wyoming has been contracted to complete a Sheridan County educational needs assessment.

The purpose of the educational needs assessment will be to collect high-quality current data that can be used to plan, support, and ensure that programs, opportunities and services available to young people in Sheridan County that **will** enable them to pursue careers in the global workplace.

The need, form, and design of this educational needs assessment was developed based upon input gathered from meetings of multiple groups and service providers within Sheridan County, including: the Whitney Board Trustees, School District #1, School District #2, School District #3, Sheridan College, and other local foundation representatives.

The commissioning of this study was the recognition of the Whitney Foundation that career opportunities in the 21st century are rapidly changing. Careers are becoming more global and transcend geographical boundaries. Advances in technology will and continues to change the workplace, and how individuals live and conduct their careers. It is considered critical that educational and vocational training opportunities available within Sheridan County remain current and evolve so as to ensure that our young people are highly skilled, competitive and have the choices they want and need for their careers in the future.

Dr. Mariam Manley has over a dozen years of applied research experience in the area of education. She has conducted several large-scale needs assessments and has focused on studies related to vocational education, technological education, and professional development. Dr Manley received her PH.D in applied social psychology from the Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, California. She has particular expertise in quantitative and qualitative research methods, statistics, and survey design.

Whitney Benefits

Press Release

June 26, 2001

" We are particularly pleased that various Sheridan County groups have worked in a collaborative method to identify the need for an educational assessment in Sheridan County. It is critical that Sheridan County and their respective communities identify how we can best meet the educational needs of our young people so that these young people can be competitive in the global market as well as make choices on their future lifestyles", said Mrs. Dorothy King, Chairperson of the Whitney Benefits Foundation. "Mr. Whitney would be excited to know the impact of this assessment and the valuable resource this will provide the community now and into the future."

Please contact the Whitney office at 674-7303 if you need additional information.