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Whitney Commons to be used for field trips by Sheridan College students

From Sheridan College

Students in Sheridan College's Horticulture 1210 class this fall can expect a few field trips to the Whitney Commons garden.

In a "unique partnership" among Whitney Benefits Inc., Sheridan College, and the University of Wyoming Sheridan Research and Extension Center, the design and original plans for the Whitney Commons' landscape will be a part of the curriculum, according to a joint SC-Whitney news release.

Justin Moss, director of UW SREC and instructor for the SC horticulture class titled woody ornamentals, explained: "The Whitney Commons area will provide a great outdoor environment for us to study plants. It is great that the folks at Whitney Benefits are so willing to work with us to provide this enhanced educational opportunity."

The release adds: "Students in Moss' class will learn how trees and shrubs are an integral part of any natural or man-made landscape.

"They will also learn to properly identify plant species and will practice the basic principles needed to create sustainable landscapes."

Whitney Benefits trustee Val Burgess stated, "The Whitney Board is pleased to assist in providing educational and on-site learning experiences and enhancements to the students in the technical programs at Sheridan College."

Sheridan College acting Dean of Ag and Technical Programs Jim Bennage said: "This is great to have such support in the community. This partnership is an example of how Whitney Benefits adds value to the quality of education available right here in Sheridan."

Whitney Benefits' total gifts to Sheridan College exceed \$21 million, according to the release. Whitney is a private, nonprofit educational foundation located in Sheridan.