

Sheridan College Teacher Education: 2 + 2 + 2

Whitney Benefits awarded a grant of \$130,000 to Sheridan College to evaluate options and create opportunities for students in Sheridan to achieve their goals of becoming educated as teachers. The Education 2+2+2 project incorporates development of the associates degree program, partnering with a four-year university to offer courses in Sheridan and hosting graduate courses for continuing education.

The project is included in the master plan in two ways. Sheridan College is building its elementary education program and adding an early childhood education component. Sheridan College is also expanding its ability to deliver bachelor degrees in conjunction with four-year university partners. Additionally, Sheridan College is re-accrediting on a continual basis as an Academic Quality Improvement Process institution. This philosophy of ongoing accreditation and ongoing improvement creates a culture for developing assessment tools, implementing improvements, reassessing and modifying as needed. These are components of the program which will be developed in this project.

The proposed project supports education and the expansion of educational opportunities in Sheridan. Sheridan College is the only college in northeast Wyoming, and as such has expanded its partnership with universities to be able to provide bachelor degree offerings at Sheridan College – with the university partners conveying the bachelor degrees. Several partnerships are already in place with the University of Wyoming and others.

The long term expected results will be:

1. increased enrollment at Sheridan College in its elementary education program,
2. successful articulation to regional universities and
3. a high transfer rate to a partner university that delivers a bachelor degree in elementary education at Sheridan College.

Success will be measured in enrollment, progress in the program and transfer to and completion of bachelor degrees.