

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Tom Kinnison (307) 672-0768

Wendy Smith (307) 674-6446 ext. 2801 e-mail wsmith@sheridan.edu

Whitney Benefits gives building to Sheridan College

SHERIDAN, Wyo.— Thanks to a generous gift from Whitney Benefits, the real estate located at 245 Broadway Street in Sheridan now belongs to Sheridan College.

The gift includes a 16,000 square foot building, known currently as the Whitney Center, the newly paved parking lot located behind the Sheridan Commercial building, and a \$250,000 cash endowment to offset the costs of repairs and maintenance. The total value of the gift is estimated at \$1.7 million. The cash endowment will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the state to create a \$500,000 endowment.

“This is a unique opportunity for Sheridan College,” said Vice President for Administration, Cheryl Heath. “This gift serves many purposes. It demonstrates confidence and a clear understanding of our mission by the Whitney Benefits’ board. Our college continues to grow, with record enrollments this year, and the ways in which we serve our community continues to grow as well.”

The building has a total of 24 office suites and there are currently 16 businesses renting space in the building. The college plans on keeping all current renters and will attempt to fill unoccupied spaces to qualified renters in the future. “This is a creative revenue stream for us,” said Heath. “We are not sure what role the property might play in the future. As we expand our programs and introduce new programs we may be able to more fully utilize portions of the space for college-related activities, but in the foreseeable future we will take over the role as landlord and look to fill the space.”

Roy Garber, Whitney Benefits Vice President said, “We recognize the value Sheridan College brings to our community. Access is a big part of their mission, and we felt like supporting the college with a gift like this could only prove positive for the community as a whole.”

“We owe our thanks also to past County Commissioners Charlie Whiton, Steve Cox, and Brad Waters for their efforts years ago to acquire this property. The foresight of folks from the Governor to our own Larry Samson was instrumental in what we are able to accomplish today.”

Through the vision and generosity of the late Edward A. Whitney, Whitney Benefits has played a pivotal role in establishing and helping grow the Sheridan College campus and its programs. This includes the first gift of land on which the campus is built and which now encompasses 124 acres – all given by Whitney Benefits. In total, Whitney Benefits’ unmatched generosity and unparalleled gifts to Sheridan College exceed \$36 million.

Within the past ten years alone, Whitney Benefits has generously funded over a dozen campus projects including updating the SC Master Plan, the Watt Agricultural Center, the SC Technical Center, the Health Science Programs, the four -year endowed Nursing Chair, the E.A. Whitney endowed Professorship in Agriculture Chair, the Trolley Catering Wagon supporting the Culinary Arts Program, and the new Whitney Villas student housing project. Whitney Benefits is a private, non-profit educational foundation located in Sheridan, Wyoming. Whitney Benefits was created under the Last Will and Testament of Edward A. Whitney, a Sheridan County resident, who passed away in 1917.

For additional information requests, please contact: Whitney Benefits President Tom Kinnison at 672-0768 or Wendy Smith at Sheridan College at 674-6446 ext. 2801.
