

**Joseph M. Evers, J.D.**

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**January 12, 2017**

Patrick Henderson  
Executive Director  
Whitney Benefits  
P.O. Box 5085  
Sheridan, WY 82801

Dear Patrick, Board of Directors, and Staff:

As we enter this New Year, I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for the tremendous gift that your organization has given me and countless others from Sheridan and Johnson Counties. Often, we are unable to fully appreciate an opportunity until we have had the benefit of growing up a bit. It is in this spirit that I write to you today.

An interest free student loan from Whitney Benefits almost completely funded my legal education at the University of Wyoming. Now that I have been out in the “real world” for a few years, I have witnessed my peers and colleagues struggle under the weight of their crippling student debt. This has given me a deep appreciation for the life changing gift that Edward Whitney and Whitney Benefits affords all students who graduate from High School in Sheridan and Johnson Counties.

Your stewardship of Mr. Whitney’s legacy is unparalleled and thankless, however, I know that your work has changed my life and the lives of many others for the better. Your hands-on, student focused approach to educational lending takes the stress out of going to school and repaying the loan. When I tell people outside of Sheridan about Whitney Benefits and the interest free loan you provided me, many reply with shock and disbelief.

I am very proud to be a Whitney Scholar. Your interest free student loan has given me the financial freedom to give back. Because of this, I, along with classmates and friends, have established and endowed a scholarship at the University of Wyoming College of Law for students studying energy and awarded our inaugural recipient. So, from all of us who have gotten a leg up from Mr. Whitney’s generous foresight, thank you for your tireless efforts on our behalf.

Gratefully,



Joe Evers  
SHS Class of '05