



2023 WHITNEY BENEFITS Community Report

LETTER FROM WHITNEY BENEFITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ERIN KILBRIDE



ERIN KILBRIDE

Happy Holidays. I am not sure where the spring, summer, or fall of 2023 went, but it is time to embrace the 2023 holidays and look ahead to winter and the new year. This

is always an exciting time of year, even if the temperatures have turned cold and we start to see snow. For me, the holidays are a time for slowing down, a time for reflection, and of course, a time for quality family moments. It is a time to be thankful. At Whitney Benefits, we are so thankful for our community. We are thankful for our school districts and for Sheridan College. We are thankful for so many non-profits that make our community what it is, and we are especially thankful for those that serve this nation and this community. Thank you, Sheridan!

Edward A. Whitney was a servant to Sheridan. He left a great legacy. We don't know an abundance about the man, but what we do know from small bits and pieces that have been put together over time, is that he was a man of humility, tempered with duty. Mr. Whitney was a man of probity and civility, endowed with respect for the rule of law. He was a wanderer despite being an opportunist, a community builder, and extraordinarily generous.

As the new Executive Director of Whitney Benefits, it has been my goal to serve our community as Edward A. Whitney served and lived his life. I commend the very first trustees to the current trustees for how they have served Mr.

Whitney's Will and Last Testament.

Mr. Whitney is known for his statement: "My Estate is not my own. I'm only its steward: it belongs to the people and I dare not be careless with it."

We are the benefactors — we must be good stewards and that legacy will continue. As we look to strengthen the legacy, we will be a great partner to our community. Our work will reflect who Edward A. Whitney was — holding the bar high for our community, always expecting the very best from our students, grantees and community.

As we move into 2024, we are excited to present our four initiatives that will help navigate our work in the coming years: These initiatives will drive our philanthropic focus.

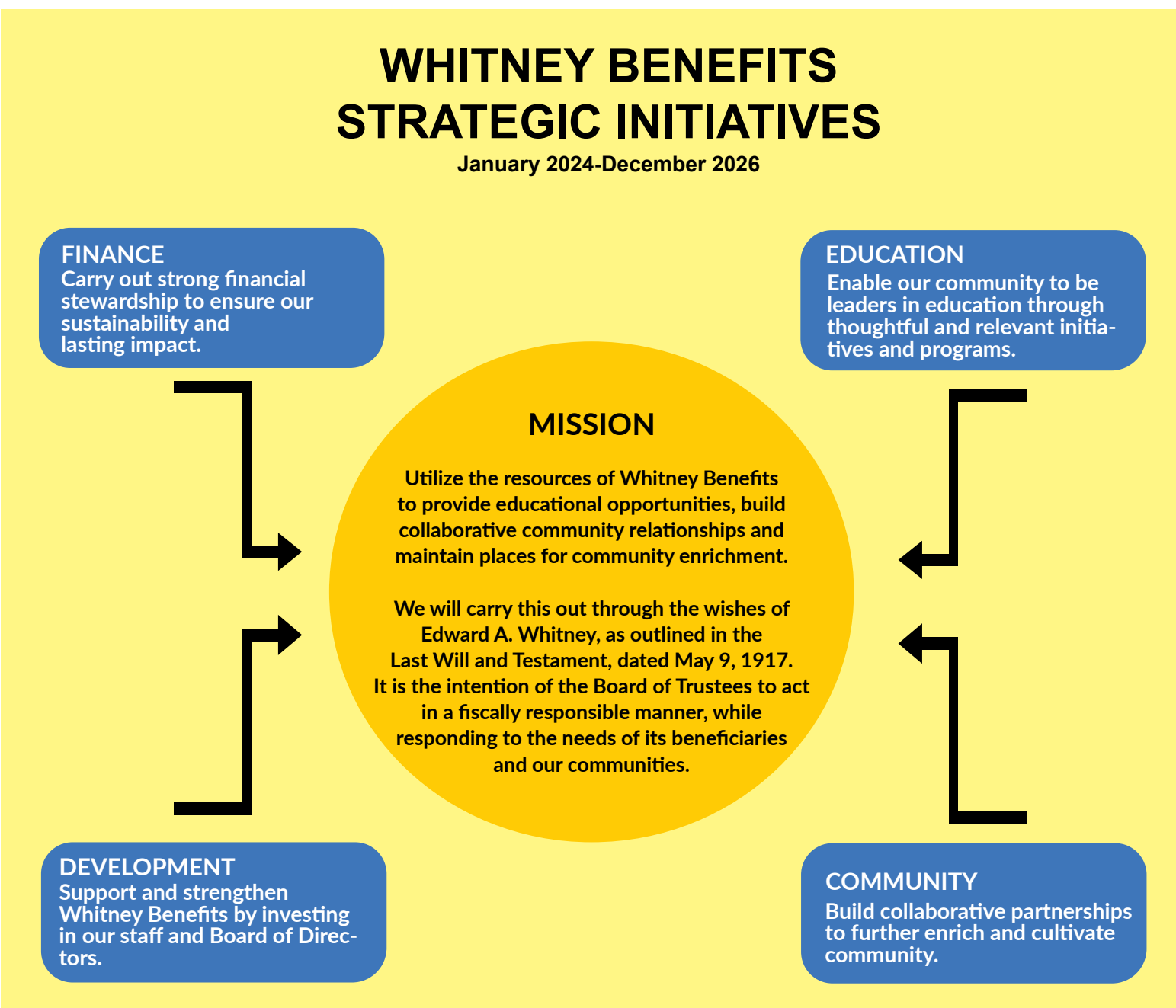
- Enable our community to be leaders in education through thoughtful and relevant initiatives and programs.
- Build collaborative partnerships to further enrich and cultivate community.
- Carry out strong financial stewardship to ensure our sustainability and lasting impact.
- Support and strengthen Whitney Benefits by investing in our staff and board of directors.

Through commitment to these initiatives, Whitney will be able to carry out our mission to utilize the resources of Whitney Benefits to provide youth and adult educational opportunities, build collaborative community relationships and maintain places for community enrichment. We are excited to continue to see Sheridan prosper and hope to play a role alongside other community partners to move our county and our state forward.

We hope everyone has a safe holiday season. We look forward to 2024 and the good things to come.

WHITNEY BENEFITS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

January 2024-December 2026



Edward A. Whitney VISIONARY WILL STANDS TEST OF TIME

"My estate does not belong to me; I'm only its steward: it belongs to the people, and I dare not be careless with it."

Edward A. Whitney

Edward A. Whitney willed his estate to establish Whitney Benefits, creating the first educational foundation in Wyoming. The Foundation was established in 1927, ten years after his death in 1917, as provided by his will. When he died, Mr. Whitney left a financial legacy of \$852,000, or approximately \$14 million in today's dollars, but very little personal history, possessions or pictures of himself. According to his original trustees, Whitney spent three decades of his life planning his gift to the people of Sheridan County. He made extensive investigations in the East as to how trust funds were structured for education, and repeatedly asked his three associates, later to become the trustees of his estate,

for suggestions. Whitney left two legacies: an educational foundation and an unorthodox but visionary will that has become one of most enduring legal instruments in Wyoming trust law. He began writing the document in 1890 and was still amending it weeks before he died in 1917. The will establishes that the foundation can fund three areas:

1. To create an interest free student loan program to help both "the hand worker and the brain worker" with educational expenses.
2. To purchase land and/or erect a building for community use in the City of Sheridan.
3. To establish and fund an agricultural college in Sheridan, WY.



Edward A. Whitney is pictured with some children during a trip to Japan in 1902.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



6,207
Students
Since 1928



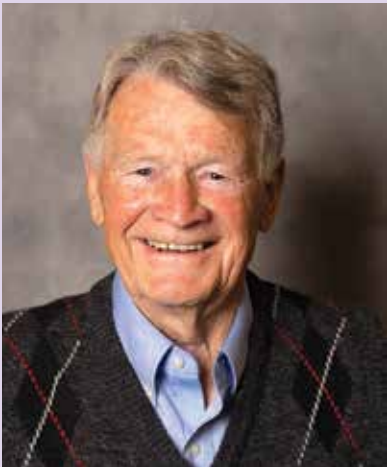
\$51,088,741
Loaned
Since 1928



\$92,555,684
To Sheridan College
Since 1959



INTEREST FREE STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM



Everett McGlothlin

“Growing up in Sheridan in the 1950’s with 8 other siblings, I assumed college was out of reach. I had initially planned to enlist in the military and only considered college an option at the prodding of a mentor, David Little. As a Trustee of Whitney Benefits, Little encouraged me to apply for a loan. The loan at the time was only \$250 a semester, but it was enough to help

cover tuition at Montana State University with extra help from a small wrestling scholarship and an ROTC stipend.

I started by studying agronomy and soils, but quickly realized I was better suited to a degree in education. A Whitney loan allowed me to study education, ultimately leading me to a master’s degree at San Diego State University. My career grew in educational leadership, and I eventually became a school superintendent abroad. Now in retirement, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Whitney Benefits to give to others the same opportunity afforded to me so many years ago. I continue to be passionate about education and giving back to youth in our community through my involvement on the Sheridan College Foundation, Sheridan High School Booster Club and the Food Group. I take joy in seeing the next generation find their own passions and work tirelessly for community betterment.”

Everett McGlothlin has served on the Whitney Benefits Board since 2006 and will retire at the end of 2023. The Whitney Benefits Board is grateful for his commitment, service and contributions over the years.



Colby Lynch

“The Whitney Benefits loan I received in 2008 was life changing for me. Upon completing my Communications degree from the University of Wyoming, I came to the realization that becoming a teacher was my true calling. I worried it was too late to change my mind and figured I should just get a job and settle for moving on with life. Fortunately, my parents told me about a unique interest-free loan

opportunity for students in Sheridan. They basically said, If you’re going to do this, you’re on your own, and here is your best option. Shortly thereafter, I applied for and was granted a loan, which literally afforded me the gift of going back to school. Ultimately, I graduated from Black Hills State University’s teaching certification program and became a high school English teacher and coach. The Whitney Benefits loan I received was the reason why I am living my dream today as an educator.”

A 2001 graduate of Buffalo High School, Colby currently resides in Dayton with his wife Shae and son Tate. He is the principal of Tongue River High School and cannot think of a better community to live in — nor better students, staff, and parents to serve. Colby knows every day is a blessing here in Sheridan County.



Molly Boyer-Jones

“Due, in part, to receiving an interest-free loan from Whitney Benefits I have been able to pursue a career in what I’m passionate about most, health and fitness! I was able to take advantage of a Whitney Benefits loan twice during my college career, as I chose to go back to college after I received my Bachelor’s Degree to further advance my studies. Overall, I was able to attend three different institutions because of this exceptional interest-free loan.

I am proud and fortunate to have been born and raised in Sheridan where E. A. Whitney

had a vision to impact future generations through education. Because of the generosity from Whitney, I wasn’t overwhelmed with unaffordable payments over several years. I am grateful to the program and staff for the interest-free loan, which allowed for a six-month grace period following graduation prior to beginning repayment. This was very helpful!”

A 2004 graduate of Sheridan High School, Boyer-Jones received her A.S. in Exercise Science, B.S. in Kinesiology/ Health Promotion, and A.S. in Physical Therapy. She holds her WY PTA license and works as a PTA at Core Physical Therapy where she is passionate about helping people return to/maintain injury-free in their activities for life. She loves to dance, run and be active in the outdoors. Molly enjoys the arts/live performance and world travel where she has made many memories with her husband Brad. She is active in giving back to the community at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church with the Women’s Ministry and working with high school youth, and is also a member of the Bought Beautifully Board of Directors.

In his last will and testament, one of the three things Mr. Whitney directed his corporation to establish was an interest-free student loan program. The Whitney student loan program provides interest free academic and vocational student loans to Sheridan and Johnson County High School graduates.

Mr. Whitney understood that each individual has different needs and the same education does not fit every student. In his will, dated May 9, 1917, he explained his desire to assist “needy and deserving young men and young women in attaining, through education, such positions in life as may appeal to them as best suited to their individual needs and capacity.” Whitney recognized the need for both professional and vocational workers in the greater economy and required assistance to be “...as freely offered to the hand worker as the brain worker.” To this day, Whitney Benefits provides student loans to undergraduate, graduate and vocational students.

In 1917, Whitney deemed \$600 to be an adequate annual maximum loan amount, but he had the foresight to acknowledge future trustees may deter-

mine an increase in this maximum necessary. In 1927, Whitney Benefits was officially incorporated and in 1928 the foundation began the student loan program by loaning a total of \$6,510 to a combined 14 students. Today, since the foundation’s inception, Whitney has loaned over 6,200 students more than \$51 million.

Many changes have been made to the Whitney interest-free student loan program over the years, always guided by Mr. Whitney’s intent. Currently, students are eligible to borrow up to \$24,000 for undergraduate or vocational studies and up to \$40,000 for graduate studies. No one student can borrow more than a lifetime limit of \$40,000. Following Mr. Whitney’s original design, students must be a graduate from a Sheridan or Johnson County high school or provide proof of residence in Sheridan or Johnson counties for the past four years.

To learn more about Whitney loans or apply visit www.whitneybenefits.org. The current application period for Spring 2024 funding closes March 1, 2024.

THE TRUE COST OF A STUDENT LOAN

\$24,000 Loan

Federally Subsidized at 5% Interest

+ \$6,547 Interest

Interest-free Whitney Loan

\$0 Interest

\$40,000 Loan

Federally Subsidized at 5% Interest

+ \$10,911 Interest

Interest-free Whitney Loan

\$0 Interest

SAM SCOTT RETIRES FROM WHITNEY BOARD

When I was first appointed to the Whitney Board nearly 30 years ago, I had no idea of the changes and opportunities that lay ahead of us and am amazed at the impact Whitney has had on our community and the educational opportunities we now have.

I accepted my first appointment in 1994, and at the time, our assets were less than 6% of what they are today. I remember attending my first Education Committee meeting around a kitchen table because there wasn’t enough room in our small foundation office for all of us. We weren’t able to approve every loan request because of our limited assets and had to decide who would get a loan and for how much. The arrival of funds from the coal settlement changed everything.

We spent a lot of time and energy, over nearly seven years, in litigating and negotiating terms of the final settlement and were dipping heavily into our assets to pay our legal team. It surprised us when suddenly, the funds appeared in our bank account. The arrival of these funds exponentially changed Whitney and provided many new opportunities for the board and our community.

I look with humble pride, in taking a part in the growth of Whitney Benefits and what Whitney has been able to accomplish over these past years. It has been a distinct pleasure and honor in serving on the Whitney Benefits Board and I anxiously look forward to all the great things we can expect in the future.

The Whitney Benefits Board is grateful for the countless contributions Sam Scott has made in his time of service over the past 29 years. His unique perspective as a representative of Sheridan County School District 1 and the Tongue River Valley has helped guide the direction of the foundation and his impact will continue to be felt for years to come.



SAM SCOTT

WHITNEY COMMONS PARK

Whitney Commons is located in the center of Sheridan, between the YMCA, the Fulmer Library and the HUB on Smith, at 320 West Alger Street. The park has several features including the pavilion, a playground designed for fun and safety,

large turf areas supporting any number of activities, the popular water spray grounds, an amphitheater and plaza area, vintage lighting illuminating pedestrian walks and bike paths and the Dorothy King reflective flower garden. There are bronze art pieces

throughout the park honoring Mr. Whitney's life and the talent of local artists. Whitney Commons is a safe, clean and fun environment for families and the Sheridan community to enjoy! Whitney Commons is also a perfect location for many

private events including weddings, birthday parties, reunions, friend and family gatherings and fundraising events! In 2023, the park had more public and private events than ever before. Below are some of the public events that took place:

Wyo Rodeo Boot Kick Off



The Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and the Sheridan WYO Rodeo Board kicked off the 2023 Sheridan WYO Rodeo Week with the annual Boot Kick Off and Stick Horse Barrel Races on Tuesday, July 11 at Whitney Commons park. The Stick Horse Barrel Races started the event for children 8 and younger. Participants had to run as fast as possible on their stick horses around barrels and back to the start. The Boot Kick-Off was held following the Stick Horse Barrel Races. Participants competed to see who could "kick off" their boot the farthest. The top winners in each category were: Ages 4 and Under: First place – Kasun Canfield. Ages 5 & 6: First place – Jasper Edwards. Ages 7 & 8: First place – Addy Bishop. Ages 9-12 Girls & Boys: First place – Aubrey Hartley. Ages 13-17 Girls: First place – Eliana Grover. Ages 13-17 Boys: First place – Cole Connors. Ages 18 & Up Women: First place – Taylor Townsend. Ages 18 & Up Men: First place – Sergio Trocha. A total of \$1,330 in Chamber Bucks was awarded to the winners!

11th Annual Fremont Toyota Suds n' Spurs Brewfest



The Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce held its 11th Fremont Toyota Suds n' Spurs Brewfest on Saturday, Aug. 26, at Whitney Commons Park. This year's Brewfest brought 29 professional craft brewers from across the mountain west to Sheridan. This year's samplings also included hard seltzers and non-alcoholic craft beer. Ticket holders sample the craft beers and then vote for their favorite brewery to take home the coveted People's Choice Spur Award, crafted by Tom Balding of Tom Balding Bits and Spurs. This year's People's Choice Award went to Cody Craft Brewing in Cody, WY. A professionally judged competition was held for wheat beer with Snake River Brewing Co. in Jackson taking home the Spur Award. The Brewfest also featured live music by the band Sidetrack and food vendors Curds of Wyoming, Melt the West and Schwein BBQ. This is the major fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce with the funds raised being dedicated to furthering the missions of their volunteer committees and to education and training opportunities for the Sheridan business community. Over 900 people attended this year's event.

Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk

The 12th annual Out of the Darkness Walk was held on September 16, 2023 at Whitney Commons park. The event was hosted by the local chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to raise awareness for suicide prevention and to destigmatize seeking mental health help. There were approximately 175 walkers and almost \$30,000 was raised for suicide prevention and awareness. This walk provides the community with an opportunity to come together to help raise awareness and to bring hope to those who have been affected by suicide.

The Link, Partners In Pink 15th Annual Run/Walk



The Link, Partners in Pink 15th Annual Run & Walk was held on the morning of October 21, 2023 beginning at 10 a.m. The race started and ended in beautiful Whitney Commons Park and once again, fall weather in Sheridan was spectacular. This community event offered a 10K run, a 5K run/walk and a 1.5 mile walk. The Sheridan Memorial Hospital (SMH) Foundation has organized the breast cancer awareness event annually for the last decade. This year, efforts and proceeds were focused on comfort care funds for patients of the Welch Cancer Center (WCC). These funds are available to cancer patients of all cancer types and providing them with the most comfortable experience during their cancer journey. The event hosted 500 registered individuals and over 50 volunteers from all over the community, all playing a significant role with the success of this 15-year celebration. Those involved included SMH employees and their families, First Federal Bank & Trust, and Sheridan College Nursing Students. Students from Sheridan High School included Student Council, Interact, and many others participated. Proceeds from the day were over \$55,000 and will enable the WCC team to help our patients and their families on a personal level through their cancer journey.

Gold Star Family Memorial Monument

In 2022, Whitney Benefits worked with the WYO W.E.S.T. Warrior Foundation to place Wyoming's first Gold Star Family Monument in Whitney's Patriot Park. Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments are a two-sided tribute made of black granite. One side bears the words "Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives who sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom." The other side tells a story through the four granite panels: Homeland, Family, Patriot and Sacrifice. The scenes on each panel are a reflection of each community's Gold Star Families and their fallen Heroes. At the center of this tribute is a silhouette of the Loved One who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the name of Freedom. The idea and implementation of Gold Star Family Memorial Monuments were started by USS Hershel Woody Williams and the Woody Williams Foundation. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hershel Woody Williams passed away in 2022. He had devoted his life to serving others. Before he passed, he left us with clear orders to all be a part of the mission to never forget. He would want us all to remember his motto: "The Cause is Greater than I..." Gold Star Memorial Monuments provide a place of permanence for Gold Star Families to gather. These Monuments belong to them and their fallen Loved Ones. They are intended to achieve the following goals: Establish and provide a space the Gold Star Families can call their own in honor of their Loved Ones and their family; Demonstrate to Gold Star Families that their community cares for them and appreciates their sacrifice while also honoring the ultimate sacrifice of their Loved Ones; Establish and strengthen local Gold Star Family communities through Gold Star Family outreach events associated with each monument location; Educate the general public about Gold Star Families' enduring sacrifices and the ultimate sacrifice made by their Loved Ones. In 2023, Whitney Benefits added new landscaping to enhance the Patriot Park and show case the importance of the Gold Star Monument to the community.



VOLUNTEER SERVICE WHITNEY BENEFITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Whitney specifically stated in his will that, "The corporation trustees, acting as such, shall receive no pay for their services, as it seems to me that the selection and honor of serving on such a board for such purpose would, with the opportunity given to benefit the youth of their own county, attract men of ability and influence who would find the work a labor of love, so to speak, and would willingly fill the office of advisors and directors of the paid working officials into whose hands they commit the actual working out of their plans and instructions." Since 1927, when the Whitney Benefits foundation was established, 104 dedicated individuals have served on the Whitney Benefits Board of Trustees. Altogether, the Whitney Trustees to date have dedicated over 1,161 years of service supporting education and building our Sheridan community.

- Whitney Benefits Board of Trustees:
- C.V. Davis 1927-1947
 - Alf Diefenderfer 1927-1945
 - F.A. Eaton 1927-1937
 - Edward P. Fitzgerald 1927-1935
 - W.G. Griffen 1927-1943
 - Vernon Griffith 1927-1959
 - Emerson Hanson 1927-1962
 - I.P. Hayes 1927-1945
 - B.G. McKeen 1927-1943
 - H.C. Stevens 1927-1929 & 1936-1945
 - J.D. Thorn 1927-1931
 - Allen Williams 1927-1937
 - N.P. Yentzer 1927-1929
 - E.C. Bowman 1930-1955
 - Peter Kooi 1930-1935
 - L.J. O'Marr 1931-1943
 - J. Frank Kirkpatrick 1935-1941
 - Ralph Carmichael 1936-1955
 - Lawrence S. Fuller 1937-1943
 - W.N. Shackelford 1942-1965
 - William D. Redle 1943-1959
 - O.G. Rhode 1944-1963
 - Edwin Small 1944-1947
 - James Wolfe 1944-1959
 - Dr. P.M. Schunk 1945-1945
 - Jackson Bentley 1946-1953
 - George Johnson 1946-1951
 - Andre Zoutte 1946-1953
 - Ralph Hylton 1948-1959
 - Ted Kellner 1948-1952
 - Hurbert O. Minick 1951-1958
 - E.E. Edwards 1952-1959
 - James Carroll 1954-1960
 - Robert Holstedt 1954-1965
 - Charles H. Kane 1956-1959
 - J.W. Wilson, Jr. 1956-1961
 - Clifford H. Carroll 1958-1961
 - Harold Newton 1960-1961 & 1972-1981
 - Jesse K. Beeson 1960-1967
 - C.D. Calhoun 1960-1963
 - W.J. Christensen 1960-1967
 - William Long 1960-1975
 - Dr. Peter Madsen 1960-1987
 - Homer Scott, Sr. 1960-1993
 - Gus Booras 1962-1965
 - Henry A. Burgess 1962-1993
 - J. Gordon Macalister 1962-1965
 - Donald Roberts 1962-1965
 - Fred Kaufmann 1964-1969
 - William Welch 1964-1967
 - Warren Sheldon 1965-1969
 - C.B. Metz 1966-1993
 - Frank Panetta 1966-1972
 - Joe Parker 1966-1982
 - S. Watts Smyth 1966-1977
 - Burton Kerns 1968-1989
 - Ralph Foster 1969-1970
 - George Gligorea 1970-1991
 - Dorothy King 1970-2001
 - John P. Chase 1972-2013
 - W. E. Cook 1972-1991
 - Dr. George Ewan 1975-1999
 - Jane Schroeder 1977-1991
 - N.A. Nelson, Jr. 1982-2001
 - David Withrow 1982-2013
 - David Parker 1986-1999
 - Ray Johnston 1989-1994
 - Waldo Forbes 1991-1999
 - Tim Barnes 1992-2001
 - Roy Garber 1992-Present**
 - Darlene Reiter 1993-1997
 - Ky Dixon 1994-1997
 - Bruce Hendricks 1994-1996
 - Sam Scott 1994-Present**
 - John Smith 1996-1999 & 2002-2005
 - Candy Hardesty 1998-1999
 - Janet Ludwig 1998-2001
 - Tom Belus 2000-Present**
 - Tom Kinnison 2000-2018
 - Gary Koltiska 2000-2003
 - Tim Tarver 2000-2004
 - Tom Throne 2000-2003
 - Kim Love 2001-Present**
 - Val Burgess 2002-2013
 - Mary Ellen McWilliams 2002-2005
 - John Patton 2002-2002
 - Dr. Sy Thickman 2002-2002
 - Maureen Humphrys 2003-2015
 - Peter Schoonmaker 2004-2019
 - Samuel S. Street 2005-2014
 - Stephen Holst 2006-Present**
 - Everett E. McGlothlin 2006-Present**
 - Robert Prusak 2013-Present**
 - Lori McMullen 2014-2017
 - Lynie Phipps 2014-2020
 - Tom Pilch 2014-2017
 - Dave Ferries 2015-2018
 - Brandi Bilyeu 2018-Present**
 - Nadine Gale 2018-Present**
 - Dave Kinskey 2018-Present**
 - Doug Hockett 2019-2021
 - Cameron Duff 2020-Present**
 - Pam Peldo 2020-Present**
 - Megan Cook 2022-Present**



Members of the Whitney Board are (back row from left) Sam Scott, Roy Garber (President), Kim Love, Tom Belus (Vice-President), Dave Kinskey, Robert Prusak, Everett McGlothlin (Secretary), Cameron Duff; (front row from left) Nadine Gale, Brandi Bilyeu and Pam Peldo. Not pictured: Megan Cook and Stephen Holst (Treasurer).

WHITNEY COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

The Whitney Community Advisory Group was created in 2004 to provide input from various community members about current Whitney projects and events. The group helps to oversee operations at Whitney Commons and provides valuable community input. The 2023 Community members included: Steve Carroll, Steve Gage, Bill Gatley, Becky Newton, Stacia Skretteberg and Jason Wille.

WHITNEY STAFF

The Whitney staff follows the direction of the Board of Trustees to further the philanthropic ideals of the Whitney Foundation based on Mr. Edward A. Whitney's will.
Erin Kilbride | Executive Director
Bobbie Beard | Contoller
Jennifer Destefano | Student Loans Administrator
Janet Barnes | Administrative Coordinator
Sarah Sommers | Support Assistant
Maintenance Staff | David Sanders, Aaron Leach and Lydia McGranahan.

FUNDING A COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF SHERIDAN



Advanced Manufacturing & Applied Sciences Center

Sheridan College is undertaking an exciting endeavor to enhance and grow their career and technical education programs.

With the help of over \$2 million in funds from Whitney Benefits to get state matching funds, Sheridan College is renovating an existing 25,000 square foot building and building an additional 3,600 square feet of space to support education in areas that meet the needs of local industry. The building will include flexible spaces for programs, classrooms, offices and common areas and will have creativity and creation on display.

This new space will have programming in the following areas:

- ◆ Advanced manufacturing
- ◆ Composite materials
- ◆ Capstone student projects
- ◆ Manufacturing incubator
- ◆ Construction trades
- ◆ Carpentry
- ◆ HVAC
- ◆ Plumbing
- ◆ Residential and commercial electrical
- ◆ Industry contract training

With plans to open in Fall 2024, the Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Applied Sciences will benefit the Sheridan workforce, economy, educational landscape and the community as a whole.



\$92,555,684
to
Sheridan College
Since 1959

SECOND CENTURY LEGACY GRANT

In 2018, Whitney Benefits announced a gift of \$11,369,000 to Sheridan College in remembrance of Edward A. Whitney who passed away 100 years prior. In 2023, \$1,704,000 was gifted. The gift is to support faculty in several academic areas including: agriculture, machine tool technology, welding technology, diesel technology, general and visual arts and the music program.

These programs were all selected as potential growth areas and align with regional economic development priorities. Also included in the grant is support for marketing and recruitment as well as funding for the creation of a student success mentoring program modeled from the current TRIO program at Sheridan College. This program will improve student persistence and completion by utilizing a contemporary mentoring model that goes beyond traditional advising to include comprehensive service, from selecting a career path through acquiring the first job upon completion.

The Whitney Second Century Legacy grant added 18 full-time positions, and one part-time position at Sheridan College. These funded positions have led to increased enrollment numbers at Sheridan College in the CNA program, welding, diesel technology, machine tool and computer coding. The college works cooperatively with Sheridan County School District 2 to provide computer coding opportunities for over 600 elementary, junior high and high school students enrolled in computer coding classes at SCSD 2 schools annually.

\$25.3 MILLION GRANT

In 2014, Whitney Benefits committed to the largest gift in the history of Sheridan College in the amount of \$25.3 million. The commitment from Whitney Benefits to Sheridan College included the necessary \$1.3 million required to complete the \$8 million Mars Agriculture and Science Center renovation project, \$16 million to support the renovation and construction of the Whitney Center for the Arts Building, \$2 million to support infrastructure and parking improvements on the main campus and \$6 million for approximately half of the Tech Center renovation and expansion project. In 2023, Whitney continued to fund this extraordinary multi-year gift with a grant of \$2,131,710.

CENTENNIAL RESIDENCE HALL

In 2018, Whitney Benefits committed \$7.1 million to Sheridan College for the construction of a 100-bed residence hall. The new dorms were open for student use starting in the Fall 2020 semester. They were named Centennial Hall in recognition of the 100-year legacy of Edward A. Whitney's generosity. The payments will be made over a 25-year time frame. The total project cost was \$9 million with the remaining \$1.9 million being paid for by revenue from students' residence hall fees. The new Centennial Hall includes three floors with traditional rooms, common lounges and study rooms. It is located just east of the Thorne-Rider Campus Center at Sheridan College. In 2023, \$284,000 was gifted for this multi-year grant.

WHITNEY DAYS



Sheridan College hosted the fifth annual Whitney Days event week at Sheridan College to honor Mr. Edward A. Whitney and his legacy of support of higher education in Sheridan County. The events were a combination of informative, educational and fun events to educate residents of Sheridan County, Sheridan College students and staff about Mr. Whitney's life and legacy and about the opportunities available at Sheridan College.

During the week of September 25 to October 1, 2023, Sheridan College hosted a Kick Off BBQ, coffee and donuts with the Whitney Benefits Board of Trustees, an Ice Cream Social, a S'mores Night at the Whitney mall and the three day Pat Hamilton Memorial Rodeo.



THE GIFT OF WATER

In 2023, Whitney Benefits gifted the City of Sheridan in excess of 50 million gallons of stored Park Reservoir water to assist in watering Sheridan's parks, pathways and greenways, including the Sheridan Recreation District's Thorne Rider Park, Oatts Baseball Complex, Dan Media Soccer Field, as well as the City of Sheridan's Washington Park, Black Tooth Park, the elk pasture and Kendrick Park. Water is also donated to Sheridan County for the Sheridan County Fairgrounds. Whitney also contributes water to the University of Wyoming Science and Research Center, located at Whitney's Adams ranch just south of Sheridan College, for students and educators with experimental test plots and crop irrigation.



CERTIFICATION OF FIDUCIARY EXCELLENCE

The CEFEX standard of excellence for Investment Stewards is based on fiduciary practices that seek to increase long-term investment performance by diversifying the portfolio across multiple asset classes and peer groups, evaluating investment management fees and expenses and selecting or terminating Investment Managers. Investment Stewards, such as Whitney Benefits Trustees and staff, have the primary responsibility for effective management and the adherence to investment fiduciary practices. Benefits of fiduciary assessments include: establishing evidence that Whitney is following a prudent investment process; increases long-term investment performance by identifying appropriate procedures for diversifying the portfolio across multiple asset classes and peer groups, evaluating investment management fees and expenses and selecting and terminating Investment Managers as appropriate. This fiduciary practice uncovers investment and procedural risks not previously identified, which assists in prioritizing investment management projects. This practice encourages Whitney to compare their practices to their peers, and assists in establishing benchmarks to measure Whitney's efforts. Whitney Benefits places the highest fiduciary importance on having the best practices in place. By its certification, Whitney can validate its adherence in fiduciary man-

agement and demonstrates that Whitney trustees and staff regard independent oversight of its financial activities as paramount. Information on these fiduciary practices can be viewed by clicking on Whitney's on-line CEFEX certificate at www.whitneybenefits.org.



Investment Steward Certification Validated Oct. 22, 2023