

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 14, 2007

Contact: Wendy Smith (307) 674-6446 ext. 2801/Email [wsmith@sheridan.edu](mailto:wsmith@sheridan.edu)  
Ryan Ragan (307) 674-6446 ext. 2802/Email [rragan@sheridan.edu](mailto:rragan@sheridan.edu)

### **Sheridan College welcomes Endowed Chair to faculty**

Sheridan College is pleased to announce Dr. Janice Stephens as the new Endowed Nursing Chair faculty member.

Stephens' role at Sheridan College will include teaching, advising, recruiting and facilitating an enhanced degree completion program where students can earn a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Wyoming at Sheridan College.

This is the first degree path of its kind offered at a Community College in Wyoming.

The hiring of Stephens comes shortly after a \$1 million gift to the Sheridan College Foundation from Whitney Benefits, Inc. The grant made it possible for SC to hire Stephens and create a partnership between the University of Wyoming's Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

"We are very grateful for the generosity of Whitney Benefits," Judy McDowell, Sheridan College Nursing Director, said. "This is definitely a milestone for Sheridan College. We're all very excited about the potential for the extended degree options in our area."

McDowell added that planning for this type of degree path has been underway for over a year-and-a-half. "Dr. Stephens brings experience and expertise to our department and the potential for additional course offerings that will enrich the education of all of the nurses in our community," said McDowell.

"I'm honored to be appointed as the Edward A. Whitney Endowed Nursing Chair," Stephens said. "With the creation of this unique position, it's now possible to enhance baccalaureate nursing education in northern Wyoming. I'm in a position to provide two primary services to nurses in this region. First, I'm available to advise and mentor nurses. Second, as individual and group learning needs are determined, activities will be designed to meet the needs using a combination of strategies. Because of local, regional and national health initiatives, health promoting activities will be included to assist people in living a long healthy life."

Stephens holds a bachelor's in Nursing from Montana State University, Master's in Health Education from the University of Oregon, a Master's in Parent-Child and Rural Nursing from the University of Wyoming, and Ph.D. in Adult Learning and Technology from the University of Wyoming.

Stephens was honored with the UW Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing Alumni Award for 2007.

Anyone interested in the program can contact Stephens at ext. 3304, or Judy McDowell at ext. 3306.