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### **Whitney Benefits gift creates endowed nursing practicum experience at SC**

SHERIDAN, Wyo.- A \$500,000 gift from Whitney Benefits Inc. to Sheridan College will create the Edward A. Whitney Endowed Nursing Practicum Experience at Sheridan College. This program will create a grant fund available to students enrolled in the collaborative Sheridan College/University of Wyoming RN-BSN completion program and to those enrolled or recently graduated from the Sheridan College Associate Degree Nursing Program who seek funds to support expenses associated with their practicum or other clinical learning opportunities.

The State of Wyoming will match Whitney's gift to create a \$1 million endowment to support this program.

The grants will make it possible for students to participate in practicum and supplemental experiences in research medical facilities, specialized medical facilities, or outreach centers, according to Dr. Janice E. Stephens, the Edward A. Whitney Endowed Nursing Chair at Sheridan College. Students from Sheridan and Johnson counties will be given preference for this program.

"Extensive and varied clinical experiences enhance all nursing education," said Stephens. "This opportunity will open professional doors for our students and graduates. If they have a desire to study at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, this program will help make that dream a reality."

"This new practicum support provided by Whitney Benefits will act as a magnet," said Trudy Munsick, Dean of Health Sciences at Sheridan College. "Students in rural Wyoming are frequently unable to participate in clinical experiences of this nature. An opportunity like this is a great addition to an already successful program."

Whitney Benefits board member Maureen Humphreys said the agreement will further strengthen the long-time relationship with Sheridan College. "Not only will this enhance the higher education opportunities available to students in our region, this program will bring additional healthcare expertise to the Sheridan community," she said.

Whitney Benefits Board of Directors President Tom Kinnison notes that, "The Whitney Board is pleased to play a role in this project. Our focus is enhancing educational opportunities for the citizens in our area and a program such as this one will positively affect our entire health care system in Sheridan County. Mr. Whitney would be delighted to see his gift continue to assist Sheridan College, the students, and the community residents."

“We sincerely thank the Whitney Benefits Board of Directors,” said Dr. Kevin Drumm, Sheridan College President. “Once again our students will benefit because of the generous support from Whitney.”

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 120 acres - all given by Whitney Benefits. In total, Whitney Benefits' unmatched generosity and unparalleled gifts to Sheridan College exceed \$24 million.

Within the past 10 years alone, Whitney Benefits has generously funded a dozen campus projects including updating the SC Master Plan, the Watt Agricultural Center, the SC Technical Center, the Health Science Programs, and the new student residence halls. Whitney is a private, non-profit educational foundation located in Sheridan. 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, contact: Tom Kinnison at 672-0768, or Wendy Smith of Sheridan College at 674-6446 ext. 2801.

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