

**WHITNEY BENEFITS &
SHERIDAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS**

**"GRADUATION SUCCESS PROJECT"
MEDIA RELEASE**

March 24, 2010

Tom Kinnison, President of Whitney Benefits announced the formation of a new community educational committee that will focus on a strategy of reducing the drop-out rate of high school students in Sheridan County. "The excessive high school drop-out rate in Sheridan County High Schools is not acceptable, and further more this issue should not be acceptable to any member in our communities. Losing even one student is not acceptable, if you are that student or if you are the students parent. The problem is not exclusively a school district issue – it is a community issue. The drop-out student loses, their parents lose, the school district(s) lose and we as a community members lose. With the resources that this county has available (quality schools with good educators, a good community college, and well intending community members), we can chart the future where students can graduate and have great success in their life's. All students need a high school education so that they can make a living and can enjoy the pursuit of success and happiness that all people should freely seek."

Committee representatives will include Whitney Trustee Val Burgess, Whitney Trustee Everet McGlothlin, Sheridan High School principal Dirlene Wheeler, Sheridan County School District #2 Trustee Bill Bradshaw, Sheridan County School District #1 Tongue River High School Counselor Pete Kilbride, and Sheridan County District Attorney Matt Redle as the committee chairman. Kinnison said, "This committee pulls together the educational commitment and strengths of the county to make measurable change in the successful completion of students finishing high school. This can change and stimulate a cultural difference in how the student and the community view the value and benefit of their education in Sheridan County".

Whitney 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 on this Media Release, please contact: Whitney Benefits President Tom Kinnison at 672-0768.