

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 18, 2011

Contact: Tom Kinnison (307) 672-0768

Wendy Smith (307) 674-6446 ext. 2801 e-mail wsmith@sheridan.edu

Whitney Benefits continues support for media production program

SHERIDAN, Wyo.— A partnership that began in 2010 between Whitney Benefits, Sheridan College and Sheridan County School District #2 enabled SCSD#2 to create a new vocational program in broadcast journalism.

Last week, Whitney Benefits renewed their support for this program with an additional gift of over \$38,000 for equipment and training.

“Allowing young people in Sheridan the opportunity to develop their skills and explore potential career directions is a key piece of our strength in education,” said Whitney Benefits Board member Tom Belus. “Enthusiastic instructors with the ability and passion to teach young people should be rewarded and encouraged.”

Sheridan High School Instructor Michael Clift created the Broadcast Journalism course, which enrolled 12 students in the first offering. The class has created a video magazine, “Bronc Stampede,” which includes news, feature stories, sports, and entertainment from the SHS students, staff, and Sheridan community. The class also partnered with area citizens to create a 15-minute production featuring Sheridan area WWII veterans.

“A key strength in this partnership is the video production club that exists at the high school level and at Sheridan College,” said Vice President for Academic Affairs, Jon Connolly. “What we really hope to see are young people engaged in an activity that they can then continue as they pursue their higher degree with us.”

Sheridan High School is continuing to build the program and plans to remodel space to create a TV studio in order to increase the frequency with which they produce student news.

“We are extremely thankful to Whitney Benefits for supporting this partnership,” said Connolly. “With a tight budget there are many initiatives that are put on hold because of resources, and we are fortunate to have a community partner like Whitney to recognize the power of this partnership and the academic opportunity for students.”

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 140+ acres – all given by Whitney Benefits. In total, Whitney Benefits’ unmatched generosity and unparalleled gifts to Sheridan College exceed \$44 million.

Within the past ten years alone, Whitney Benefits has generously funded over a dozen campus projects including the new Academic Center, updating the SC Master Plan, the Watt Agricultural Center, the SC Technical Center, the Health Science Programs, the four -year endowed Nursing Chair, the Trolley Catering Wagon supporting the Culinary Arts Program,

and the new Whitney Villas student housing project. Whitney Benefits 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, please contact: Whitney Benefits President Tom Kinnison at 672-0768 or Wendy Smith at Sheridan College at 674-6446 ext. 2801.
