

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **Whitney Benefits presents check to Sheridan College**

SHERIDAN, Wyo.— Officials from Whitney Benefits presented Sheridan College President, Dr. Paul Young with a check today for \$7.6 million dollars, one-half of the cost of the new Edward A. Whitney Academic Center to be located on the Sheridan College main campus.

“This is a monumental day,” said Young. “This is the single largest gift ever received by Sheridan College, and very appropriate that it is from Whitney Benefits. We are grateful for the vision of E.A. Whitney and his board of representatives here with us today.”

In 1959, Whitney Benefits gifted the college \$250,000, which was matched by Frederic Thorne-Rider, and matched again by a Sheridan County bond. The resulting \$1 million dollars built the first structure on the Sheridan College campus, the Whitney Building. “Whitney Benefits has been at the forefront of supporting Sheridan College for over 50 years,” said Young. “This latest gift will help ensure we have high quality facilities for the next 50 years.”

A new academic building has long been number one on a list of projects in the College’s master plan. The Wyoming Legislature approved one-half of the funding during their 2011 session, requiring local funding for the other half. Whitney Benefits generously offered to provide the match needed.

“We are proud to carry on E.A. Whitney’s vision,” said Whitney Benefits President, Tom Kinnison. “The importance of Sheridan College to our communities goes well beyond graduation every May. It is an important piece in the economic engine of our region, and we must invest in it if we want to succeed.”

The location and plans for the new structure will be unveiled Monday at Sheridan College.

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 in whole or in part 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.