

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 7, 2011

Contact: Tom Kinnison (307) 672-0768

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

Sheridan College and Whitney Benefits unveil building plans

SHERIDAN, Wyo.— With a buzz of excitement in the room, officials from Whitney Benefits and Sheridan College today unveiled drawings and shared plans for the new Edward A. Whitney Academic Center to be located on the Sheridan College main campus.

The project became reality eight months ago, when the Wyoming Legislature approved funding for a new Academic Center at Sheridan College. The \$7.6 million dollars in funding from the state required local matching funds, and Whitney Benefits generously offered to provide the match needed.

“This is a great day in the history of higher education in Northern Wyoming,” said Whitney Benefits Vice President, Roy Garber. “I am proud to serve as a trustee of the late Edward A. Whitney’s estate, I am proud of our community college and I am proud of the students we serve. I look forward to seeing this project rise from the ground up and believe E.A. Whitney would agree.”

“I would also like to point out that there are several folks at the state level that helped make this dream a reality,” said Garber. “Senators Schiffer and Burns, Representatives Patton, Berger, Madden and Botten as well as Fremont County Senator Bebout all were instrumental in making this happen. These folks are passionate about higher education and are committed to their communities.”

The design incorporates some remodeled space in the current Whitney Building as well as new space on the front of the existing structure. The design meets the intention of this facility project and positions Sheridan College to serve the community for the next 50 years.

“Teaching and learning has changed significantly over the last fifty years,” said President Paul Young. “In order to deliver education, and meet the expectations of the diverse audiences we serve, we must create new and unique spaces that foster collaboration. This center will forever change the landscape of Sheridan College today, just like it did in 1959. Once again, we have E.A. Whitney, along with our State Legislature, to thank.”

The new and renovated space is designed for student success and replaces outdated classrooms with collaboration spaces, learning labs and laboratories that enhance learning opportunities. The entire student experience will be improved with welcoming and gathering spaces, collocated student services offices and a new front door for the entire campus. Some components of the project include:

- 9 classrooms/collaborations rooms, including computer labs, physic lab, GIS/Cad Lab
- Center for teaching and learning and learning lab
- Large tiered classroom
- Student and business services including recruiting, admissions, financial aid, advising, testing, records, registration, and business office.
- Outdoor Education office
- Bookstore and coffee shop
- Gathering space and welcome center
- Faculty offices and writing center

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.
