

NEWS RELEASE

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Creative partnership leads to more elders, families and students served

Students enrolled at Sheridan College in culinary arts, horticulture, nursing, massage therapy and dental hygiene will participate in varying levels of practicum opportunities at the new Sheridan Senior Center Day Break facility.

Sheridan College and the Sheridan Senior Center will, together, expand opportunities for the citizens of Sheridan County. Thanks to a gift of land from Whitney Benefits, adjacent to the current Senior Center on Smith Street, and a \$500,000 Business Ready Community Grant recently awarded to the Center by the Wyoming State Loan and Investment Board, the Senior Center will move forward creating a true home for the Day Break program.

Day Break provides adult day services to individuals, focusing on their needs, interests and abilities. The new program will also provide access and opportunities for Sheridan College students for discovery-based learning, service learning and required clinical experiences for health care and other students.

“This type of synergistic partnership is unheard of in other parts of the country,” said Sheridan College Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Richard Hall. “Our programs are growing and clinical space for our students is finite. At the same time, our population in Sheridan County is aging and a true need for increased service has been identified. We are fortunate to have folks in Sheridan like the Whitney Benefits trustees and the Senior Center trustees that are willing to come together and create such a win-win opportunity.”

“This is really an important next step in our strategic plan to serve the citizens of Sheridan County,” said Senior Center Director, Carmen Rideout. “This program has been proven effective, having been in operation for 23 years. We are grateful to the Wyoming Business Council and the local foundations that are helping us expand it and increase our level of service. We are thrilled to be partnering with Sheridan College and look forward to the infusion of energy the students will provide.”

The Day Break Center is the first project on the Senior Center’s capital expansion plan, which includes a \$7.5 million campaign, Rideout said. Day Break is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. If you or someone you know may benefit from Day Break, or any of the many services the Senior Center provides, please call Carmen Rideout at 672-2240.