



Courtesy photo

Sheridan College student Tyler Barry works on a welding project during spring semester in the WELD 1720 Welding Shop class. Whitney Benefits on Wednesday announced a cash gift of over \$290,000 to help fund three vocational programs at SC including welding.

SC vocational programs benefit from Whitney Benefits cash gift

Whitney Benefits on Wednesday announced a cash gift totaling over \$290,000 to three vocational programs at Sheridan College.

Whitney Benefits stated, "Recognizing that the need to upgrade or replace equipment is ongoing," SC's Welding Department, Machine Shop Department and Diesel Department will benefit from the gift.

"Whitney Benefits is pleased to encourage and support Sheridan College through gifts of educational and operational equipment replacements and enhancements," Whitney Benefits Trustee and Whitney SC Committee Chairman Roy Garber said.

According to Whitney, the gift is expected to increase the number of welding workstations from 14 to 30 and add a Vertical Machining Center "to train students in the high demand market for computerized machine center operations using state-of-the-art equipment."

The gift is also expected to bring new milling machines, vertical band saws, computerized lathes with digital readouts, welders, teardown engines, Caterpillar Electronic ACERT engines and various small tool equipment replacements as well as department-specific educational training tools, Whitney said.

SC President Steve Maier said Whitney's gift comes as an unexpected boost to programs the college has worked this year to fund.

"The college has been able to fund well over \$500,000 of equipment this year, and we're doing a pretty good job maintaining a high level of quality instructional equipment and other equipment for the institution," Maier said.

He added, "But then the addition of the Whitney Benefits gift focused on these three program areas ... gives us an extra boost in those areas and allows us to go to even a little higher quality in terms of the kind of equipment our faculty and students will be able to use."

Val Burgess, a Whitney Benefits trustee, said, "Whitney is pleased to be a part of this vibrant and productive educational institution in our county and community and looks forward to future work with Sheridan College."

Whitney said since 1959 it has "conveyed 124 acres where the Sheridan College campus is currently located and has contributed (over \$21 million to the college) including the value of the land, to help establish, maintain and enhance Sheridan College educational programs and facilities."

