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### **Whitney Benefits grant creates office of grants and development at SC**

SHERIDAN, Wyo.— A grant awarded by Whitney Benefits, Inc. to Sheridan College has led to the creation of a Grants and Development office at the College. Susan Bigelow joined the staff in mid-March as the new Director of Grants and Development.

The total grant amount of \$168,999 will be paid over a period of three years. The intent is for the position to be permanent and become self-sustaining.

Everett McGlothlin, Whitney Benefits trustee said, "The Whitney Board is pleased to assist in providing funding for the creation of a Sheridan College Grants and Development office. We are particularly pleased in that this Director of Grants position will seek additional funding in and outside of the community for collaborative educational program funding."

"This partnership is a great example of how Whitney Benefits' unwavering support has helped to make Sheridan College what it is today," said Sheridan College President Kevin Drumm. "The projects that Susan will be securing funding for are ones that might have otherwise never happened or at least not near as soon," said Drumm.

Bigelow explained that she is interested in finding out about the role that Sheridan College can play in capitalizing on the creative nature of the community. "The position is more than a grant-writer, this position is project-development. I work closely with College and Sheridan area leaders to assess college priorities, community needs, and funding opportunities," said Bigelow.

Already Bigelow has submitted a preliminary proposal to the National Science Foundation for a grant that would enhance the engineering technology program in a more energy-focused way. If received, the grant would also fund summer science camps for local youth and faculty workshops for K-14 faculty that would incorporate energy-industry technology with science curriculum. "I was able to work with administrators from all three school districts on the details for this grant proposal," said Bigelow.

"The idea of discovering additional funding opportunities for educational programs will benefit Sheridan College and all three Sheridan County School Districts," said Whitney Trustee Sam Scott. "We believe that Mr. Whitney would be pleased in his ability to continue to benefit Sheridan College and his community."

"Many federal and state economic development grants are designed specifically for schools including community colleges. We simply have to seek them out and apply," said Bigelow.

Bigelow has recently moved to Sheridan and brings ten years of experience in economic development to the position. Bigelow completed her undergraduate education at California Polytechnic State University in St. Louis Obispo and has a Master's degree in business administration from the University of South Dakota.

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 120 acres – all given by Whitney Benefits. In total, Whitney Benefits' unmatched generosity and unparalleled gifts to Sheridan College exceed \$21 million.

Within the past ten years alone, Whitney Benefits has generously funded over a dozen campus projects. Whitney 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.

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