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**\$169,000 from Whitney Benefits creates  
 Grants and Development office at SC**

*From Sheridan College*

**Susan Bigelow**  
 Director  
 of Grants,  
 Development

Whitney Board is pleased to assist in providing funding for the creation

A Whitney Benefits Inc. grant to Sheridan College has led to the creation of a Grants and Development office at the college, Whitney and SC announced Wednesday in a news release.

Susan Bigelow joined SC's staff in mid-March as the new director of grants and development, according to the release, which adds:

"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."

Bigelow explained that she is interested in finding the role that Sheridan College can play in capitalizing on the community's creative nature.

"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.

The release continues: "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.

"Many federal and state economic development grants are designed specifically for schools including community colleges. We

simply have to seek them out and apply," she added.

Whitney Benefits trustee Everett McGlothlin said. "The

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."

SC President Kevin Drumm observed: "This partnership is a great example of how Whitney Benefits' unwavering support has helped to make Sheridan College what it is today.

"The projects that Susan will be securing funding for are ones that might have otherwise never happened or at least not near as soon."

Whitney trustee Sam Scott stated: "The idea of discovering additional funding opportunities for educational programs will benefit Sheridan College and all three Sheridan County school districts."

The release concludes: "Bigelow has recently moved to Sheridan and brings 10 years of experience in economic development to the position.

"Bigelow completed her undergraduate education at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis 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 10 years alone, Whitney Benefits has generously funded over a dozen campus projects."

