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**SC first to meet  
\$4.5M challenge**

• Total will be matched by Wyo. Community College Endowment Challenge for sum of \$9M

**By Sophie L. Swecker**

*Staff reporter*

The Northern Wyoming Community College District announced Wednesday that it reached its "Multiply Success" endowment challenge goal of \$4.5 million.

That figure will be matched dollar for dollar by the Wyoming Community College Endowment Challenge, thus adding \$9 million to the district's endowment.

The Legislature in 2004 challenged each of the state's community colleges to raise \$4.5 million in endowment funds by 2009. Sheridan College and Gillette College accepted the challenge along with the six other community college

districts in Wyoming.

NWCCD said it reached its goal with more than 250 donations ranging from \$8 to \$1 million and was the first district to meet the challenge.

"A recent contribution from 3-Way Inc. in Johnson County, a million-dollar gift for an endowed chair from Whitney Benefits, Inc. in Sheridan County, and a flurry of new gifts in Campbell County put us over the top," said NWCCD President Kevin Drumm in a news release.

He added: "We are fortunate to have so many citizens who support higher education. Investments like this will make a difference in the lives of students forever."

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**Kevin Drumm**  
SC President

# Endowment

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According to Susan Bigelow, acting executive director of the Sheridan College Foundation, four local foundations each contributed more than \$200,000 to the endowment fund in addition to the large gifts from 3-Way Inc. and Whitney Benefits.

They are the Joe H. and Arlene Watt Foundation, Vernon S. and Rowena W. Griffith Foundation, Homer A. and Mildred S. Scott Foundation, and the Sheridan Women's Club.

Bigelow also said the many smaller donations from Sheridan College faculty and staff and by community members were as important to the campaign's success as the large gifts.

"If you add up all the big gifts, they don't add up to \$4.5 million," Bigelow said. "It's

important that people know that every dollar they give to charity matters."

The release estimates that the \$9 million endowment could generate \$360,000 annually for the Northern Wyoming Community College District.

It adds that the money will be used to create scholarships, purchase educational equipment, promote faculty and staff development, and possibly fund building enhancements.

Whitney Benefits' donation will create an endowed nursing chair, and the Scott Foundation's money will help finance no-interest student loans, Bigelow said.

"A student may benefit from four or five of these different donations," she noted.

Sue Fletcher, president of the Sheridan College Foundation, said in the release: "It

was the vision and commitment of the 57th state Legislature (that) appropriated \$31.5 million for the Wyoming Community College Endowment Challenge.

"We are pleased to announce that in concert with Sheridan College, Gillette College, and Johnson County, we met our \$4.5 million goal in only 29 months."

Matt Burgess, chairman of the Gillette College Foundation, added: "I am quite glad we have finished in such a short amount of time." He attributed the campaign's success to all the donors who believe in the college.

Bigelow said she isn't surprised that NWC-CD reached its goal first: "There's really been some momentum here at Sheridan College. We certainly have a culture of giving to endowment campaigns."