



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 7, 2016

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Whitney Benefits gift supports computer programs at SC

Today, officials from Whitney Benefits presented Dr. Paul Young, President of Sheridan College, with a check for \$890,686 to support and strengthen computer programs offered through Sheridan College.

“Our partners at Whitney Benefits are once again helping us meet the needs of a changing economy,” said Young. “I appreciate the members of the Whitney board continually recognizing the importance of a vibrant college to the local economy; and I certainly appreciate the vision of the late Edward A. Whitney.”

“This gift is about access for students and the importance of keeping up with an ever-changing field of study,” said Tom Kinnison, President of Whitney Benefits. We are fortunate to have strong K-12 schools and a healthy college here, and we want all of our students to have the best experience possible.”

According to Craig Dougherty, School District #2 Superintendent, the support from Whitney Benefits will allow the school district, along with Sheridan College, to align computer programming and computer science programs with the nationally recognized curriculum and teacher development model, Project Lead The Way (PLTW).

“The skills learned in these programs lead to any number of Information Technology-type careers,” said Jed Jensen, Dean of Technical Careers at SC. “IT jobs are projected by the Department of Labor to grow at a rate that is two-thirds higher than the average for all jobs. Our timing is spot-on, and to be able to work with area schools to reach students at a young age and generate interest in this educational path is important for the future of our economy.”

PLTW will strengthen existing programming classes and provide a tie between secondary and post-secondary programs. Two classrooms on the main SC campus will be equipped to support the program. One room will be for use by secondary students; the second will support college students pursuing a degree. The College will also hire an additional instructor who will help provide college-level instruction to area schools, as well as facilitate student advising and transition.

About the Northern Wyoming Community College District

The Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD) is multi-campus community college whose mission is to create student success and make a difference in our communities. Including Sheridan College, Gillette College, and Sheridan College in Johnson County, the NWCCD serves almost 5,000 students per year.



“This is the model for the future,” said Dougherty. “Partnerships like this are critical in order to ensure students are learning relevant skills that are marketable in today’s economy.”

Whitney Benefits has played an important 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 140+ acres – all provided by Whitney Benefits. In total, Whitney Benefits’ generosity and gifts to Sheridan College exceed \$90 million. Whitney Benefits was created under the Last Will and Testament of Edward A. Whitney, a Sheridan County resident who passed away in 1917. For more information about Whitney Benefits, please visit their website at www.whitneybenefits.org.

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