

Thomas foundation offering scholarships

By Michael Pearlman

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Students looking to continue their education after high school have a new opportunity for financial assistance.

Susan Thomas, wife of the late Wyoming Sen. Craig Thomas, met with Sheridan High School guidance counselors Tuesday to explain scholarship opportunities available through the Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation.

Established earlier this year, the foundation offers scholarships to students who don't meet the academic requirements required to

qualify for the Hathaway scholarship.

The foundation's 14 scholarships are each worth \$1,250 per semester and can only be used at educational institutions in Wyoming.

These include community colleges, the University of Wyoming, and vocational education programs such as driving, culinary arts, cosmetology and health services.

"My purpose is to give students a taste of postsecondary education,"



Susan Thomas
Foundation
Founder

said Thomas, who taught special-needs students for 36 years in Virginia and Natrona County. "We're trying to fill an unmet need."

Nontraditional students are encouraged to apply for the scholarships, as are students who have only earned General Educational Development certificates. Thomas said she personally mentors all students and monitors their progress while in school.

"I'm all about accountability,"

Thomas said.

In addition to the scholarships, the foundation offers an annual Leadership Award of \$2,500 to "support and encourage professionals who focus on at-risk youth." The foundation also provides grants for Wyoming groups and institutions that help at-risk youth, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

The deadline to apply for the scholarships is June 1. Applications must be completed by hand and can be printed off the foundation's Web site, www.thomas-foundation.com.

Grant applications, which are accepted throughout the year, are also available on the Web site.