

WEST Inc. Anchors Dinneen Building Revitalization

STORY BY RACHEL GIRT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL SMITH



Dr. Dale Strickland

Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST, Inc.), a national firm headquartered in Cheyenne, had outgrown its office space when the opportunity to lease space in the historic Dinneen building arose.

The downtown building's central location attracted Dr. Dale Strickland, one of the founders of WEST Inc., to the project. WEST Inc. leased 20,000 sq. ft., the entire second floor of the building, subleasing 7,000 sq. ft. to another high tech company, HCMS Group.

"We have been delighted with the results," Strickland said, noting the attractive blend of modern infrastructure with high ceilings, open beams and the exposed red brick walls. His office was once part of the former body shop for the auto dealership.

The building came at an opportune time for the rapidly growing company with 50 employees in Cheyenne spread out in three different locations. Founded in 1990 by Strickland and Dr. Lyman McDonald, WEST Inc. designs, conducts, and provides analysis for ecological field

studies for both government and private businesses throughout the nation, as well as for projects internationally.

The company has grown from the two founders, working from home, to more than 80 full-time, benefited employees and 75-100 part-time field staff. Their consulting projects run the gamut from the scientific research of wind energy and wildlife interactions to studies on wetlands, and even polar bears. The company also teaches workshops in statistics and biology in the United States, Africa, South America, New Zealand and Qatar.

WEST Inc. was finalizing an expansion plan and considering options, like moving its headquarters to Ft. Collins or Laramie, when Cheyenne LEADS brought the company together with the Dinneen family, Strickland said.

After considering their proposal, the company decided to stay in Cheyenne.

With the opportunity to occupy a unique space, have room to grow, and have access to amenities like nearby restaurants, accessible parking and less

traffic, Strickland likes the downtown area as a place to work.

"We wanted to stay in downtown for the amenities, the atmosphere and be close to government entities and other firms with which we work closely," Strickland said.

This state-of-the-art building is large enough to accommodate WEST Inc.'s expansion plans for the foreseeable future, and the quality is akin to office buildings found in more urban centers, Strickland added.

He hopes that future development continues to grow Cheyenne's already pedestrian-friendly environment.

Strickland further explained that WEST Inc. joined the Dinneen venture as an anchor tenant because the company placed a high value on helping downtown development. "Any chemical reaction requires a catalyst and I believe - I hope - that we are a catalyst here for future development." ■



WEST Inc. has leased the entire second floor of the newly renovated Dinneen Building.

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