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For Immediate Release

Seeking Public Input on New East Public Library Branch

Rapid City, S.D. – June 15, 2010 – The Rapid City Public Library is asking for the public's input on the new east library that will be part of Western Dakota Tech's \$9 million building project. The first opportunity for the public to learn about and provide feedback on the plans for the campus and library, is Tuesday, June 22 from 7 to 8 p.m. at Western Dakota Tech located at 800 Mickelson Dr. in Rapid City.

"It is important to hear from the people in the area who would be using this library," said Greta Chapman, library director. "The design of the library will provide services and equipment used by all ages of the public."

Rapid City Public Libraries are a part of the project because of a contract for library service with Pennington County. The county has contributed \$1 million to the construction of a library. The existing contract will provide operational costs by shifting funding associated to the population served in the WDT/Rapid Valley area.

A combined library would be similar in hours and service at the North Branch at General Beadle School, but the design would include serving all ages of the public along with higher education students. Pennington County and City of Rapid City residents would also continue to be able to use the downtown and north branch libraries at no additional fee.

Current plans for an east library branch to include shared space that encourages staff and public interaction, a designated youth and children's area, a drive through for pick-up and

drop-off of materials, public wireless access and a community room. The east library will continue to meet the Rapid City Public Library's strategic plan goals of maintaining the library as a community gathering place and continuing to develop intuitive, mobile, and user-friendly library services for all ages.

For information about the planning meeting, call (800) 544-8765 or (605) 718-3071 or send an email to kim.morey@wdt.edu. For additional information on library services and programs, visit www.rapidcitylibrary.org.

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The Rapid City Public Library has served the Rapid City area since 1879, and now has two locations, the downtown library at 610 Quincy Street and the north library within General Beadle Elementary School at 10 Van Buren St. Both offer print and electronic resources for adults, young adults and children as well as computers and Internet access and a variety of programs and events. In March 2008, USA Today named the Rapid City Public Library's downtown library as one of the nation's 10 greatest places to "Find a Nook and Read a Book."

Find video footage of RCPL events at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/rapidcitylibrary>

Find photos of RCPL events at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rcpl/>