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Rapid City Public Library offers resources to help laid off workers

RAPID CITY - To help citizens affected by the downturn in the economy, Mayor Alan Hanks announced today that the Rapid City Public Library will provide critical resources to laid off workers to help them identify retraining opportunities and seek new employment. "We want to help people find jobs or get the skills they need to re-enter the work force," said Hanks. "The Library can help."

"At the Library and from a personal computer using a library card, patrons can access services that guide them through the process of developing their resume, preparing them for interviews or assessing their skills," said Library Director Greta Chapman. "Our Learn-A-Test service also allows job seekers to study for and practice taking a wide range of career tests including Civil Service, Law Enforcement, Teaching and GED exams." For those interested in going back to school, Chapman noted, the service also offers ACT, SAT and GRE preparation materials and practice exams. This is a statewide service provide by the South Dakota State Library.

"We understand that these are challenging times," Hanks said. "Employees that have been effected need help, and the Library has those resources available. The Library will be able to take it's mobile computer lab anywhere in Pennington County to provide hands on employee training and resources for job seekers."

Laid-off workers and others can also access the Library's resources at both the RCPL- Downtown and North (General Beadle) locations that provide a variety of employment and training resources. Job seekers can use computers for job listings, online resume posting and making connections with employers. Many of these services are also available remotely through the Library's website to patrons with a library card.

Chapman noted that many job seekers are already using the Library's employment-related resources. Since the economic downturn, computer usage at both the Downtown and North locations has dramatically increased for job searches, resume posting or career development. The Learn-A-Test service, which is funded for all public libraries by the South Dakota State Library, experienced a 15 percent increase in use in 2008 in Rapid City. Library staff expects this growth to continue in 2009.

"Online resume posting is increasingly important to job-seekers," Chapman said. According to a report released by the Pew Internet Project, almost 52 million Americans have utilized the

internet in searching for jobs (a 60% increase when compared to previous reports). The Milgram Report, which tracks monthly recruitment trends and statistics, showed a 55% increase in the number of online resumes posted in January 2009 when compared to December 2008.

Rapid City Public Library also has a presence on the website Delicious, a social bookmarking site which has links to many major online resume posting services as well as several sites of interest to job seekers. Citizens can access the link to Delicious from the RCPL's website under the "Digital Library" column. Additional questions about online employment services and resume posting can be sent to the Library's Reference Desk available 24/7 using the Library's Instant Messaging service, Ask a Librarian or Meebo available at 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>