

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Monday, Feb. 10, 2014

**CONTACT:** Mary Stadick Smith, (605) 773-7228, [mary.stadicksmith@state.sd.us](mailto:mary.stadicksmith@state.sd.us)

### **South Dakota public libraries receive accreditation**

Eleven South Dakota public libraries were accredited by the South Dakota State Library in 2013, under a tiered accreditation system. The libraries were honored at a recent ceremony before lawmakers, colleagues and patrons at Rawlins Municipal Library in Pierre.

The following libraries were accredited:

- Dorothee Pike Memorial Library (Lake Preston) — Enhanced
- Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library — Exemplary
- Elkton Community Library — Enhanced
- Emil M. Larson Library (Clark) — Essential
- Faith Public/School Library — Enhanced
- Freeman Public Library — Enhanced
- Grace Balloch Memorial Library (Spearfish) — Exemplary
- Hand County Library (Miller) — Enhanced
- Platte Public Library — Essential
- Rapid City Public Library — Exemplary
- Rawlins Municipal Library (Pierre) — Essential

Public libraries are accredited at one of three levels: Essential, Enhanced or Exemplary. Accreditation at the Essential level means a library satisfactorily provides the basic services required by state law and federal guidelines. Subsequent levels of accreditation build on previous levels. Exemplary status recognizes the highest level of service. Accreditation is valid for three years.

Libraries are evaluated in the following areas, as outlined in South Dakota Public Library standards: governance, administration, access, collections and resources, funding, staffing, technology and public relations.