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State Historical Society partnering in free collections assessments, workshops

PIERRE, S.D. -- The South Dakota State Historical Society is a partner in an initiative where museums, libraries and archives in North and South Dakota are invited to apply for a free institutional collections assessment and hands-on workshop hosting opportunity.

The assessments and workshops, which will be offered this summer, are the first phase of the Dakota Collections Care Initiative (DCCI).

"DCCI is a partnership between collections care professionals at museums, libraries and archives in North Dakota and South Dakota to improve collections care and emergency preparedness, and response for the small and mid-sized collecting heritage institutions across the two states," said Chelle (SHEL-ee) Somsen, South Dakota State Archivist.

Terri Schindel (SHIN-dle), a conservator affiliated with the Museum Training Network, has been selected to lead the institutional assessments and training workshops.

Other DCCI partners include the Association of South Dakota Museums, North Dakota Library Association, Plains Art Museum in Fargo, South Dakota State Library and the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

The project is made possible by a two-year Connecting to Collections implementation grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. To learn more about the institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

To be considered for the free assessment and workshop hosting, collecting institutions must submit an application form, which is available online at <http://history.sd.gov/> or <http://history.nd.gov/> or by calling (701) 355-4458 or emailing clearfour@btinet.net. The application deadline is March 7.

Those in South Dakota interested in more information can contact Somsen at (605) 773-5521 or Chelle.Somsen@state.sd.us. Interested North Dakotans can contact Mark Ryan with the Plains Art Museum at (701) 232-3821, ext. 104, or mryan@plainsart.org

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.