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South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board Awards Grants

PIERRE, S.D. – Six South Dakota historical organizations have received grant awards for training and equipment purchases from the South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board (SD SHRAB).

Organizations receiving grants included the Casey Tibbs Foundation, Fort Pierre; Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Depot, Redfield; Hill City Community Library, Hill City; Dakota Discovery Museum, Mitchell; Fall River County Historical Society, Hot Springs; and Minnilusa Historical Association, Rapid City. Minnilusa received \$635; the other five each received \$873.

The organizations will be using the funding to offer archival training and consultations; to purchase archival quality boxes, enclosures and shelving; and to purchase technical equipment to aid in the description of their collections.

Using \$5,000 in grant funds from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission of the National Archives and Records Administration, the SD SHRAB provided funds in order to offer a re-grant opportunity.

With the grant money, the SD SHRAB was able to disseminate funds to the local repositories, organizations, and historical societies, in order to encourage and support identification and preservation of historical records and training for the staff that care for those records, said Chelle Somsen, state archivist for the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre and chair of the records advisory board.

The purpose of the re-grant program is to address priorities identified in the SD SHRAB strategic plan, Somsen said.

Priorities identified include increased access to archival collections; increased opportunities for education, training, and development in archives and collection management; identification of important historical records that are at risk; and increased funding for South Dakota's historical records.

The SD SHRAB advocates for the preservation of historical records, educates the public and records caretakers about the importance of the historical records, and leads the historical community in preserving, promoting, and providing access to the state's documentary heritage.

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism and State Development and strives to help the state meet the goals of the 2010 Initiative by enhancing history as a tool for economic development and cultural tourism. The 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.sdhistory.org for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.