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For Immediate Release

One Book South Dakota Book Discussion

Rapid City, S.D. – April 7, 2010 – The downtown Rapid City Public Library will host a discussion of One Book South Dakota’s 2010 selection, “What is the What,” on Thursday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m.

“What is the What,” by Dave Eggers, is the story of Valentino Achak Deng’s remarkable journey from war-torn East Africa to the United States. Valentino is one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, a group of young men who were left to wander through the jungles of East Africa because they were separated from their parents—through bloodshed or chaos—during the Sudanese civil war.

The book documents the hardships faced by Valentino and many of the Lost Boys in Africa, as well as the tribulations he experienced adjusting to life in the United States. It is set in Africa and Atlanta, but his story is closer than one might expect. South Dakota is home to one of the largest Sudanese refugee populations in the country—per capita it is the largest.

School of Mines professor Kathy Antonen will lead the discussion. “What is the What” is available for checkout at the library. Cookies and coffee will be provided.

One Book South Dakota, a program of the South Dakota Center of the Book, encourages everyone across South Dakota to read and discuss the same novel or memoir throughout the course of a year. This “What is the What” Book Discussion is made possible with a grant from

the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Find out about library resources, services and events by visiting our website 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>
Find photos of RCPL events at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rcpl/>