

The logo for Elevate Rapid City, featuring the word "ELEVATE" in a bold, sans-serif font with an upward-pointing arrow integrated into the letter "V", and "RAPID CITY" in a smaller font below it.

ELEVATE
RAPID CITY

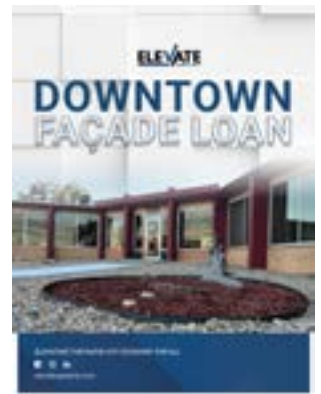
UPDATE QUARTER TWO

2 0 2 5



APRIL, MAY, & JUNE

NEW NEW NEW



GRANTS & LOANS



LEARN MORE

elevaterapidcity.com/resources/grants-loans/

ELEVATE

DID YOU SEE?

TOP
10

Rapid City was ranked among the Top 10 Best Places to Visit in 2025 by CNN Travel.

SOUTH
#1
DAKOTA

According to recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Rapid City was #1 in job growth in South Dakota #39 across the US. Our key industries of growth include: Mining & Construction, Education & Health, Services, and Trade.

Elevate Rapid City welcomed Ishmael Quaye as our Policy & Research intern for the summer. Ishmael is an MBA candidate at USD student who hails from Ghana. This summer he is diving into housing policy research and small business insights to help drive sustainable growth across the region.

Workforce Planning Director, Reese Niu, was named 2025 Top 50 Economic Developers in North America by Consultant Connect.

Garth Wadsworth, Senior Director of Public Policy, and Laura Jones, Housing & Community Development Manager joined a underground tour of the Caterpillar layer of Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) in conjunction with their work on the Innovation District.

Kallie Ruland, Business Development Manager, participated on a panel, "Doing Business With the Government" at the 2025 Black Hills Defense and Industry Symposium.

The 2024-2025 Elevate Leadership Institute graduated.

Senior Director of Marketing & Communications, Shiloh Francis, joined an underground tour of SURF to showcase the world-renowned science happening in the Hills, supporting STEM.

JJ Childress with Microsoft spoke at the June Critical Issues Luncheon on AI's Impact on the Workplace as a result of Elevate's participation in the Microsoft TechSpark Fellowship Program.

Work anniversaries celebrated this quarter: *Loni Reichert, 25 years; Liz Highland, 7 years; Garth Wadsworth, 4 years; Ashley Simonson, 3 years.*



Economic Development team hosted the delegation from the Romanian Embassy.



Laura and JJ Childress with Microsoft TechSparks in Rapid City.



Shiloh embarks on underground tour of SURF.



Ishmael Quaye joined Elevate for the summer as our Policy Research Intern.



Workforce Engagement Strategies



STEM Summer Science tour the DLAB

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Hosted 36 STEM high school students from the international Summer Science Program in partnership with Chadron State College and tenant Phylloceuticals
- Reese moderated and Taylor served as a panelist at the Black Hills Defense & Industry Symposium while discussing the impact of quality of life on military families
- Hosted a second Boots to Business REBOOT, a crash course on entrepreneurship for military-affiliated business owners.
- Shared insights on the regional labor force to Region IV Superintendents group
- Hosted Workforce Engagement Strategies: Poverty and Employee Stability
- Presented the benefits of hiring military affiliated talent with the Black Hills SHRM chapter



IEDC Board Retreat

- Facilitated second Workforce Coffee Connection of the year featuring SD Mines, Black Hills State and Western Dakota Tech student interns
- Taylor participated in a board retreat for the International Economic Development Council in Maryville, TN
- Assisted 6 people with interviews through CareerLIFT with three hires and over \$1,700 in workforce stipends provided



119K

JOB EXPOSURE

55

NEW JOB POSTINGS

100

'APPLY NOW' CLICKS

CAREER LIFT



careerliftrc.com



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ATTRACTION

74 Active Projects*

Key Outputs This Quarter:

- 276 Outreach Touchpoints to potential new leads
- 9 New Qualified Leads: Companies expressing interest in Rapid City
- 26 Lead Generation Meetings conducted with prospects and site selectors
- 7 Site Visits hosted in Rapid City with companies exploring local opportunities

EXPANSION

36 BRE Visits**

67 Visit Completed YTD

4 Successful Expansions

- Expansion of Bashful Bison into a second location in Timmon's Market - Rapid Valley
- Giddy Up & Go Boutique expand into a larger location downtown
- HS Precision expanded into new overseas export markets

Kallie conducted a Downtown Business Walk during Small Business Week, visiting 37 businesses.

Kallie and members of Black Hills Manufacturing Alliance and the team hosted Romanian Ambassador Andrei Muraru and his team in Rapid City.

* Active Projects = companies are engaged and actively evaluating the area as a possible site selection location or expansion

** BRE = Business Retention Expansion Visit; A meeting with local business to assess their needs, address challenges and ID opportunities for growth.



Small Business Lunch & Learn



Kallie at Black Hills Defense and Industry Symposium

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Lead Generation – Echo Steel (Nov. 2024 – Present)

Connected a private trades degrees school exploring expansion opportunities and potential program offerings to local resources.

FACES AT EVENTS

18 | 1,088
EVENTS | ATTENDEES

2025 BUSINESS AWARDS NIGHT



Dr. Mark Harlow
GEORGE AWARD
AWARD



Liberty Superstores
GRANITE
AWARD



RESPEC
BUSINESS EXPANSION
OF THE YEAR



Coca-Cola High Country Bottling Company
LARGE BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR



YMCA - Rapid City
NON-PROFIT
OF THE YEAR



Black Hills Running Company
EMERGING BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR



Ketel Thorstenson, LLP
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
BEST PLACE TO WORK



Black Hills Adventure Tours
SMALL BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR



Casey Peterson, Ltd.
BEAUTIFICATION
AWARD

BUSINESS ADVOCACY

Published the 2025 Legislative scorecard

Hosted the Innovation District planning team for several site visits

Hosted Tech Forge event to foster WDTC & SD Mines entrepreneurs

Hosted the inaugural Civics Bee in partnership with the US Chamber of Commerce.

Published 2025 Candidate Guide

Hosted Candidate Forums for City & School Board elections



SCORECARD



elevaterapidcity.com/news



Attendees at candidate forum with the 2025 candidate guide

WELCOME NEW INVESTORS

TETON
BUFFALO PLAINS RECOVERY

FOTH INFRASTRUCTURE &
ENVIRONMENT LLC

RAPID CITY MASONIC LODGE NO. 25

TOASTIQUE

BASIC
FLYGUYEDITZ

SOUTH DAKOTA TRADE

LATEST ISSUES



Scan the QR code to read the full stories.



Q3 EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

14 - Critical Issues Luncheon

The Rushmore Hotel
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

15 - YPG 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

by *RC Young Professionals*
Hart Ranch Golf Club
1:00 p.m.

18 - Ag Appreciation Event

Central States Fair
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

19 - Elevate Your Morning
FREE NETWORKING EVENT

DLAB Event Space
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

20 - Small Business Lunch & Learn

DLAB Boardroom
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

20 - Wildfire University + Entrepreneur Happy Hour

DLAB
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

26 - Workforce Engagement Strategies

DLAB Boardroom
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

4 - Critical Issues Luncheon

The Rushmore Hotel
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

9 - Q3 Fall Mixer

SD Mines Nucor
Mineral Industries
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

11 - Elevate Leadership Institute (ELI) Session 1

16 - Housing Development Summit

Hyatt Place Rapid City
8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

17 - Wildfire University + Entrepreneur Happy Hour

DLAB
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

26 - Black Hills Forum and Press Club

DoubleTree by Hilton
11:30 - 1:00 p.m.

2 - Manufacturing & Trade Summit

The Monument
8:00 a.m. - noon

9 - Elevate Leadership Institute (ELI) Session 2

15 - Small Business Lunch & Learn

DLAB Boardroom
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

22 - Wildfire University + Entrepreneur Happy Hour

DLAB
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

28 - Workforce Coffee Connection

DLAB Event Space
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.



Scan the QR code to view full events calendar

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS

Events@elevaterapidcity.com