



ELEVATE
RAPID CITY

UPDATE QUARTER THREE

2 0 2 5

JULY, AUGUST, & SEPTEMBER

FRESH FACES



2024



2025



2026

DO YOU HAVE A NEW TEAM MEMBER IN RAPID CITY?
We'd love to get to know them. Or if that's you, send in a nomination for Fresh Faces.



NOMINATE

rapidcitybusinessjournal.com/fresh-faces-nomination



READ PAST ISSUES

rapidcitybusinessjournal.com/elevate-magazine/



DID YOU SEE?

**TOP
15**

Rapid City ranked #15 in 'Mid-Sized Metros' by Lightcast Talent Attraction for high-earning job growth, competitive effect, attraction of earners, and prime-age population growth

**RAPID
#1
CITY**

Rapid City ranked #1 as 'Fasting Growing City in South Dakota' according to the Bureau Labor Statistics based on year-over-year growth in nonfarm jobs

Launched the inaugural 'Coolest Thing Made in the Black Hills' contest, open to a public nomination & vote

Kamryn Wainwright joined the Elevate Rapid City staff as the Events & Marketing Manager

Adam Braun joined the Elevate Rapid City staff as the Investor Sales Manager

The Economic Dev. and Workforce Dev. pillars hosted a business breakfast for companies attending the SD Mines Career Fair to highlight career and investment potential in Rapid City

Kallie Ruland, Business Development Manager, earned her Level 1 Trade Specialist Certification at the State International Development Organization (SIDO) training in Maine

The 2025-2026 Elevate Leadership Institute cohort launched

Elevate Rapid City staff volunteered as part of United Way's Month of Caring at the Salvation Army, filling 500 food boxes to support 250 families through December

Released the 2025 Housing Study for the Rapid City Metro area

Taylor Davis, Sr. Workforce Development & Partnerships Director participated in the International Economic Development Council Annual Conference in Detroit, MI, focusing on "Igniting the Future: Catalyzing Opportunity, Vitality, and Prosperity"

Launched tickets for the Annual Community Christmas Mixer on December 9th

Created partnership with Nothing Bundt Cakes to provide Bundtinis at Ribbon Cutting ceremonies

Celebrated 9 Ribbon Cuttings

Work anniversaries celebrated this quarter: *Drew Staufer, 1 year; Shiloh Francis, 8 years; Bailey Sadowsky, 1 year; Lori Frederick, 3 years*



The team volunteering for Month of Caring



KAMRYN WAINWRIGHT



ADAM BRAUN

Taylor attending Economic Dev. Council Conf.



Kallie attending State International Dev. Org training



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Hosted the second annual Workforce Summit, highlighting the impact of AI on the labor force with keynote speaker Dr. Lane Freeman

Facilitated resume and cover letter workshops for six classes between Central and Stevens High School through the Business, Entrepreneurship & Hospitality Pathway

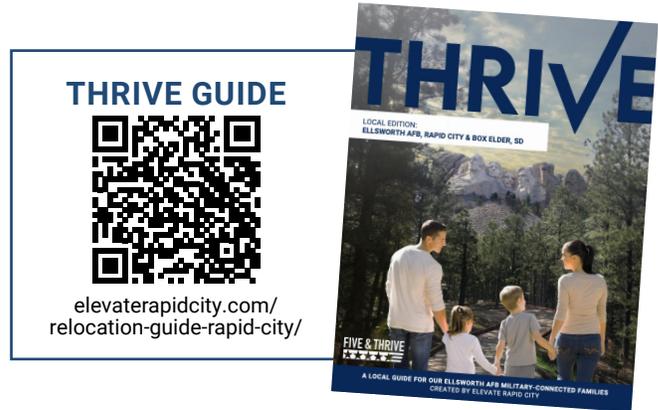
Hosted Workforce Engagement Strategies: Cultural Competency in Hiring

Supported the 39th annual McBride Military Appreciation BBQ as sponsors and members of the Black Hills Military Advisory Coalition

Launched a local Thrive Guide for military affiliated families in the Black Hills in partnership with the Five & Thrive initiative

Created an "HR" email list to share monthly insights and information – let us know if you'd like to join!
 Email Taylor.Davis@elevaterapidcity.com

63 businesses and 26 partners supported with workforce development efforts in the region



Dr. Freeman and panelists present at the Workforce Summit.



118K

JOB EXPOSURE

63

NEW JOB POSTINGS

53

'APPLY NOW' CLICKS

JOB BOARD



careers.elevaterapidcity.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ATTRACTION

Direct Companies

A technology and fabrication company serving industries and businesses nationwide with expertise in automation, data management, design and fabrication, and IT services with offices in 6 states

Other Notable Stats:

- 5 Site Visits
- 346 Prospect Touches
- 2 Business Start Ups
- 11 Start-Up Contacts
- 18 Business Resource Referrals

EXPANSION

- 38 BRE Visits**
- 105 Visits Completed YTD
- 7 Successful Expansions

MARKET RESEARCH CENTER

- 35 Businesses Served
- 55 Reports Provided

Drew traveled to Greenville, SC, to meet with site selectors and share an overview of Rapid City's opportunities

Driven Fire and Zinvent Industries graduated from the DLAB

Launched the first meeting of the DLAB entrepreneur cohort to support business growth and innovation

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



Drew and some of the GOED team in Greenville for a Site Selector meeting.



DLAB graduates:
Top: Driven Fire; Bottom Zinvent Industries



Welcomed a company in the Aerospace and Defense industry for discussions about establishing a presence in Rapid City

Lori participated in the SD Trade Steering Committee strategic planning session to guide statewide trade initiatives

Adrenaline Analytics and Direct Companies moved into the DLAB Incubator Space

CONGRATULATIONS



VESTA WELLS JOHNSON

has completed over
800 Ribbon Cuttings!

FACES AT EVENTS

16
EVENTS

900+
ATTENDEES



WELCOME NEW INVESTORS

OLYMPUS
TRAV'S OUTFITTER

TETON
WESTERN DAKOTA
TECH FOUNDATION

C-LOCK INC.

MIDWEST HEART &
VASCULAR ASSOCIATES

WORKPLACE BY DIRECT
AND DIRECT COMPANIES

BLACK HILLS CENTER
FOR EQUALITY

BASIC
WYOMING BUILDING SUPPLY

SOUTH DAKOTA FIRST CAPITAL

QUALITY QUICK PRINT BLACK HILLS

MEADOW RIDGE PET LODGE

LIDEL CONSTRUCTION

MWI HEALTH
(MIDWEST WELLNESS INSTITUTE)

SEVER CONSTRUCTION DAKOTAS

3D SECURITY, INC

THE RUSTIC NOOK BAKERY, LLC

FRIEND OF ELEVATE
PATRICK ROSELAND

BUSINESS ADVOCACY

Hosted two Innovation District Steering Committee Meetings

Hosted a visit from the Innovation District planning team

Hosted a business roundtable with Representative Dusty Johnson

Kicked off Elevate's participation in the 2026 National Civics Bee

Provided an update on Housing Market Conditions at the Housing Summit

Submitted an application to the Small Business Administration (SBA) Regional Innovation Clusters

Launched a startup support program for pre-revenue tech startups through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Build to Scale program

Launched the AI Microgrant program

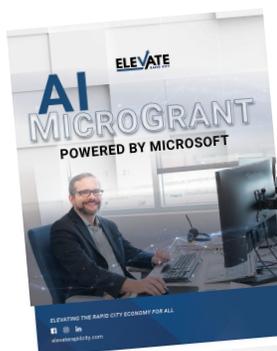
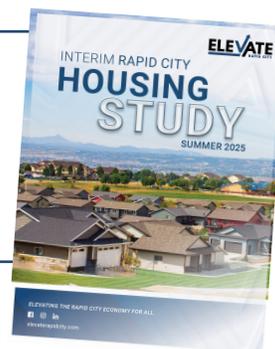


Garth presenting at Housing Summit

HOUSING STUDY



elevaterapidcity.com/resources/housing-study/



MICROGRANT



elevaterapidcity.com/resources/grants-loans/

NOMINATE FOR THE 2025 DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

NOMINATE



Scan the QR code to nominate and complete the application.

The Distinguished Public Service Award was established in 2023 to honor an individual who has worked in the public sector to bring positive change to his or her community at the state or local level. Award recipients have devoted a large portion of their lives to serving others, professionally and privately, not because they expect something in return; not because they think it will improve their reputation; but because service is so deeply ingrained in their identity, so profoundly a part of who they are.

You may either nominate and complete the application for a deserving individual or you may complete the application for yourself. The recipient will be honored at Elevate's Annual Meeting in January 2026.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE NOVEMBER 28TH.



QUSI R. AL-HAJ
2024 Recipient

Q4 EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

6 - Critical Issues Luncheon
The Rushmore Hotel
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

13 - Elevate Leadership Institute (ELI) Session 3

13 - YPG Volunteer Event
Feeding South Dakota
1:00. – 3:00 p.m.

13 - YPG Friendsgiving
Pour 54 Taphouse
6:00. – 7:30 p.m.

20 - Wildfire University + Entrepreneur Happy Hour
DLAB
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

26 - Black Hills Forum & Press Club
DoubleTree by Hilton
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

4 - Critical Issues Luncheon
The Rushmore Hotel
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

9 - Annual Meeting
The Monument
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

9 - Community Christmas Mixer
The Monument
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

11 - Elevate Leadership Institute (ELI) Session 4

17 - Small Business Lunch & Learn
DLAB Boardroom
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

17 - Wildfire University + Entrepreneur Happy Hour
DLAB
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

11 - Elevate Leadership Institute (ELI) Session 5

13 - Winter Mixer
Liberty Powersports & Marine
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

21 - Wildfire University + Entrepreneur Happy Hour
DLAB
3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

27 - Workforce Coffee Connection
DLAB Event Space
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

31 - Crackerbarrel
Western Dakota Technical College
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.



Scan the QR code to view full events calendar

**SPONSORSHIPS
AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS**
Events@elevaterapidcity.com