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HEADLINE: Library Foundation Campaign at \$4.4 Million

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wichita’s proposed new advanced learning library will benefit from an \$8 million comprehensive campaign. The Wichita Public Library Foundation announced the campaign this morning. Campaign officials report that \$4.4 million in gifts and pledges have been secured. The campaign serves to augment the City’s \$30 million investment in what is being called “a community keystone project.”

“A new advanced learning library is on the horizon,” Foundation Chairman Don Barry said. “The Library Foundation and its donors are proud to be part of a capital campaign that will help to ensure the new library is well equipped, incorporating the best technology, and designed for growth. Thanks to the generosity and vision of a number of donors, the campaign is more than half way to its \$8 million goal.”

The Campaign Leadership Committee stressed the critical importance the new library would play in literacy, business development, employment, education and culture.

The new advanced learning library will bring the best of traditional library services to be combined with new opportunities that support early childhood literacy skill development. “We know children who are reading at grade level by the third grade have a much greater chance to succeed in life,” said Wichita Public Library Board President Kellie Hogan. “The Children’s Pavilion in the new library is designed for infants to fifth grade. The source material, technology, and programing will be exceptional.”

“The advanced learning library serves to create opportunity, drive success and build community,” said Foundation Director Leah Barnhard. “The new library incorporates the digital age and the need to focus on a knowledge-based economy and community. Most would be surprised to learn how many people

do not have access to computers. Given the number of companies who only take employment applications online, the Digital Pavilion in the new library will aid the local work force and economy.”

Barry thanked donors to the campaign for their early commitment, generosity and vision. “Those involved with planning the proposed new library have been very thoughtful about every dynamic of this project.”

In 1915, when the Carnegie Library opened, Wichita’s population was about 55,000. In 1967, when the current library was built, our population was about 245,000. Today, Wichita’s population is approaching 400,000 and interacting with technology in ways we could barely dream of 50 years ago.

The citizens of Wichita will be proud of its new, advanced learning library as it serves our community in both space and need.

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Wichita Public Library provides collections and services that inform, entertain and enrich the quality of life in Wichita. For more information, please visit www.wichita.lib.ks.us.

Wichita Public Library Foundation, founded in 1987 as a public/private partnership following severe budget cuts by the City of Wichita, works to support Library services which benefit our community. Almost \$4.0 million in grants, donations and endowment income has been made available to the Library. For more information, please visit www.supportwichitalibraries.org