

# Casper Area Chamber of Commerce

## NCPL 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the Natrona County Public Library has been providing business resources to the people of Natrona County since 1910 and will celebrate its Centennial Anniversary this year; and

**WHEREAS**, economic vitality is directly linked to a literate, educated and informed citizenry, in no small part developed through the free resources for self and community improvement provided by the public library; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early 1900s, business leaders in Casper and Natrona County recognized that a library could provide a "Window to the World" by connecting residents with new ideas otherwise limited by the county's geographical isolation, a vision shared by businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie who provided the funds to build the library in Casper; and

**WHEREAS**, library Trustees have included such prominent businessmen as Charles H. Townsend, Charles C.P. Webel, Billy Johnson, Jim Crawford and other representatives from a variety of businesses who clearly saw the library's value to the community and invested their time to ensure that such a valuable service would continue; and

**WHEREAS**, building expansions completed in 1925, 1952 and 1972 both stimulated the local economy and met rising demands for library services from a growing population which increased from 4,800 county citizens in 1910 to 73,100 currently; and

**WHEREAS**, financial investments in the library including tax revenue, One-Cent funds, and donations from private citizens and businesses, have been extremely cost-effective; the library currently returns \$9 in service value for every \$1 of expenses; and

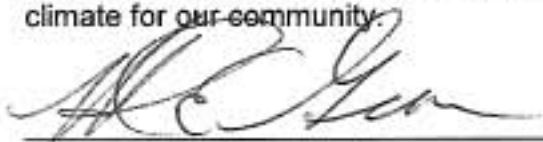
**WHEREAS**, the Natrona County Public Library and its supporters have invested in special resources pertaining directly to the needs of local industries, including a Petroleum Collection established in 1960 in partnership with the Wyoming Geological Association, and still used heavily by individuals working in the county's energy industries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Natrona County Public Library has been instrumental in helping numerous local citizens establish businesses or increase job-related skills, and has, through partnerships with organizations such as the Small Business Administration offered business incubation services, professional research assistance, and classes focused on business applications, job searching, and computer skills; and

**WHEREAS**, the Natrona County Public Library has provided an important "quality of life" element to our community, essential in recruiting businesses and encouraging families to relocate to Casper; and

**WHEREAS**, the Natrona County Public Library has for a century, provided free access to industry resources, business periodicals, demographic data, business directories, resources for nonprofit operations, legal information, investment information; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Casper Area Chamber of Commerce, ask that all citizens join us on May 20, 2010 to celebrate 100 years of public library service to our community. I encourage all residents to use their library for the purpose of fostering literacy and education as community values. Come see how your library is honoring the past while creating a better business climate for our community.



Milton Green, President  
Casper Area Chamber of Commerce

4/20/10  
Date: