



**Office of Community Relations**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WHAT: Rotary Plaza Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

**WHERE: Rapid City High School**

**WHEN: Thursday, April 21, 2022 10:00 AM**

(Reception to follow)

To Whom It May Concern;

Rapid City High School, in partnership with Rushmore Rotary Club, is pleased to announce a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Rotary Plaza, Rapid City High School.

We would like to invite you to join us on April 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. as we celebrate this momentous occasion. Rapid City High School and Rushmore Rotary, along with community partners [Western Dakota Technical College](#) (WDTC), LindExco and KLJ Engineering will be dedicating the Rotary Plaza in memory of Rotarian George Lyons, followed by a reception.

The Rotary Plaza will be located at Rapid City High School and features three new benches, concrete pads, bike racks, and a skateboard rack, built by WDTC Welding and Fabrication Program students. It will be a place of gathering for friends, a place for classes to meet, and a place for learners to wait on their rides.

Michael Prugh, WDTC Welding and Fabrication Director, said about 18 students helped build the items for the plaza. "The students enjoyed this special project as it was different from their typical lab work. It was something they could take ownership of and take pride in doing. The

students took their time to do the best job they could. It helped build their confidence knowing the public will see and utilize the items they made.”

The project began a few years ago with the death of Rotarian George Lyons, whose memorial was dedicated to RCHS for the benefit of its students. “With the help of several community partners, we worked with RCHS staff and students to design an outdoor space that would benefit all in memory of George Lyons,” said Scott Van Dam, President, Rushmore Rotary. “We especially want to thank RCAS and the community partners, who helped get this space completed.” Mr. Sean Binder, RCHS faculty said, “The Rotary Plaza has already been a well-used addition. Minutes after the installation of the first benches, I looked out the window to see three learners enjoying a warm day. Two were sitting on one bench deep in conversation, while a third learner was sitting on the other bench reading.”

[Rushmore Rotary](#) is a local club of [Rotary International](#), comprised of inspired individuals who translate their passions into relevant social causes in our community, including Feeding South Dakota, Children’s Home, Rapid City High School, Storybook Island as well as several international projects.

Rapid City Area Schools is thankful for the longtime support the Rushmore Rotary Club has provided Rapid City High School learners, through learner recognition programs, essay contests, volunteer support, and special initiatives.

If you plan to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony on April 21, please notify the Community Relations Manager by email at [Caitlin.pierson@k12.sd.us](mailto:Caitlin.pierson@k12.sd.us). |