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For Immediate Release

Contact: James Lockwood, james.lockwood@stpaul.gov, 651.266.8571 (o), 651.226.7708 (m)

Mayor Coleman Welcomes New Community Learning Center to East Side

*Students, library officials celebrate grand opening of Hot Spot at Arlington
Hills*

SAINT PAUL – Mayor Chris Coleman today joined students, library staff, and community partners to celebrate the grand opening of the Hot Spot Community Learning Center, a new center that is meeting community needs for access to technology and information related to academics, careers, college, and financial aid.

“It is imperative that students and residents have the resources and access to technology they need to compete in a 21st century economy,” Mayor Coleman said. “For our city to be competitive, our students and residents have to be prepared. The Hot Spot Community Learning Center helps our students by extending the learning day beyond the classroom, and it helps our residents by giving them the tools and information they need to find and apply for good paying jobs.”

Named by a teen advisory group, the Hot Spot is located in the Arlington Hills Branch Library at 1105 Greenbrier Street on Saint Paul’s East Side. It serves all ages and is open during library hours. Staffed by library personnel, services range from tutoring and homework assistance for students to networking with professionals in a given field and test preparation for the GED, SAT and ACT exams.

Through a partnership with the Minnesota Literacy Council, the library also uses space in the center to host English Conversation Circles on Thursday evenings, and the space is used for programming and activities designed for toddlers and preschoolers on Tuesday mornings.

“Our libraries have been at the forefront of our work to increase learning opportunities for students and assist adults in acquiring the information and skills necessary to enter the workforce, especially for those who are in transition during challenging economic times,” Mayor Coleman said. “The Hot Spot is an important and exciting addition to the East Side community.”

Originally opened in September 2008, the Hot Spot has generated nearly 400 visits from adults and more than 850 visits from students through December, already making it the second highest used career and homework center in the Saint Paul Public Library system.

The Hot Spot received key financial assistance from the Travelers Foundation, the McNealy Foundation, Best Buy Children’s Foundation, RBC Wealth Management Foundation, and the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library. Together, community partners contributed \$16,000 to secure additional staffing and programming.

For more information about the City’s education initiatives or hours and services of the Hot Spot, visit www.stpaul.gov/mayor/education or www.stpaul.lib.mn.us/homework/hotspot.html.

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