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## **SirsiDynix Honors Five Libraries for Building Better Communities**

**Organizations recognized for enterprising uses of technology, will receive US\$10,000 each**

**NEW ORLEANS, June 24, 2006** – SirsiDynix, the global leader in strategic technology solutions for libraries, announced today the recipients of its Building Better Communities Awards, which recognize libraries for creative and enterprising uses of technology to improve their user communities.

The 2006 Building Better Communities Awards recipients are: Calgary Public Library, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Delaware County Community College, Media, Pa.; Hamilton Public Library, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; Hancock County Library System, Bay St. Louis, Miss.; and INFOhio, Columbus, Ohio. Each recipient receives US\$10,000. The five recipients, as well as 10 other finalists, were recognized at a special ceremony today during the American Library Association Annual Conference.

“SirsiDynix established the Building Better Communities Awards to recognize library organizations and the important roles they play in their communities,” said Patrick C. Sommers, SirsiDynix chief executive officer. “The five recipient libraries and their staff members are excellent role models to libraries and librarians everywhere. Their outstanding efforts to create better places for us to live, work and learn should educate and inspire others to do the same. On behalf of the almost 700 employees of SirsiDynix worldwide, I congratulate these excellent institutions for their work.”

About 130 SirsiDynix North American libraries were nominated for the inaugural awards. A panel of independent library leaders from Canada and the United States pared the nominees down to 15 finalists. Five recipients were then chosen.

Carole Moore, chief librarian at the University of Toronto and a member of the selection committee said: “The response to the Building Better Communities Awards is spectacular, and the quality of the nominations made the selection committee’s decision extremely difficult. The nominees included a mix of public, academic, K-12, state and special libraries, and they ranged in size from large metropolitan libraries to small community libraries. Since there are no categories for these awards, this mix proves that libraries of all types and sizes can use technology to become indispensable to their communities and their users’ search for information and knowledge.”

The following are descriptions of how the recipients are using technology to reach their communities:

- Calgary Public Library – The library’s popular Open for All project explores computer technology with the underserved and socially excluded groups, as well as special needs and at-risk children, teens and adults. These groups, without access to computers otherwise, gain experience with public access terminals, Internet connections and productivity software.
- Delaware County Community College – The library, working with the Department of Allied Health and Nursing, makes library resources available in software format for access by nursing students’ personal digital assistants (PDAs) during their hands-on clinical portion of their curriculum off campus.
- Hamilton Public Library – This project involves an innovative new Web site called myhamilton.ca, offering city services electronically to residents and business people. Through this site, <http://www.myhamilton.ca/>, Hamilton residents can connect to everything they need to know to live, learn, work and play in Hamilton.
- Hancock County Library System – In the post-Hurricane Katrina community of Hancock County, the public library led the way in restoring Internet connections and telephone service within its walls to help local residents communicate with friends and family, as well as with insurance companies, federal agencies and other recovery resources.
- INFOhio – Beginning as the dream of a few educators, INFOhio has evolved into a grassroots effort to provide all Ohio students with equal access to online resources and to promote statewide information sharing through a single library automation system and union catalog.

To learn even more about the Building Better Communities recipients, visit [www.sirsidynix.com/awards](http://www.sirsidynix.com/awards).

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Print-quality group and individual photographs of Building Better Communities Awards recipients are available. Please contact Lebron Miles, corporate communications director, at [lebron.miles@sirsidynix.com](mailto:lebron.miles@sirsidynix.com) or (256) 704-7152.

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### **About SirsiDynix**

SirsiDynix is the global leader in strategic technology solutions for libraries – vital institutions whose primary mission is to make sense of the vast world of information for people and communities. This is an exciting role as libraries assist people in discovering and using knowledge, resources and other valuable content for their educations, jobs and entertainment. In concert with key industry partners, SirsiDynix supports this strategic role for libraries by offering a comprehensive integrated suite of technology solutions for improving the internal productivity of libraries and enhancing their capabilities for meeting the needs of people and communities. SirsiDynix has approximately 4,000 library and consortia clients, serving more than 300 million people through more than 20,000 library outlets in the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific. For more information, please see [www.sirsidynix.com](http://www.sirsidynix.com).