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HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY'S BOUNDLESS LIBRARY PROGRAM RECEIVES AWARD

(Hartford, CT) Hartford Public Schools (HPS) was recognized this month by the non-profit organization Let's Move in Libraries for its Boundless partnership with Hartford Public Library (HPL). HPS was one of ten awardees selected out of 55 submissions to Let's Move in Libraries' national *I Partner with My Public Library* award program. HPL was proud to nominate HPS for this recognition.

Since 2016, the non-profit organization Let's Move in Libraries has been a national and international voice advocating for strengthened partnerships between public libraries and others that want our communities to be healthier places for all. In 2023 Let's Move in Libraries launched the annual I Partner with My Public Library Award to begin the process of creating a platform to celebrate and acknowledge the crucial work of community collaborators to the work of public librarianship. "We received 55 nominations, so the selection process was difficult, but what stood out to us was the history of close collaboration and the Boundless Library Initiative is incredibly resonant and powerful." Said Noah Lenstra, Director of Let's Move in Libraries.



"Our Boundless collaboration between HPS and HPL serves as an impactful, multifaceted, dynamic model that creates equitable access to resources and programming." Said Bridget E. Quinn, HPL President and CEO. "Outcomes include rising reading levels, lowering learning loss, supporting both HPL and HPS's strategic priorities and an increased use and awareness of library resources." Just this summer [2023], HPL and HPS's partnership brought more than 3,000 young readers into our libraries. From Summer Learn partnerships to Block collaboration, HPS and HPL have come together to further leverage the resources and expertise of both institutions in this innovative Boundless partnership. "The seamless integration of library and school that we started ... opens a vast array of educational opportunities for students and targeted assistance for teachers. In addition, the Boundless Library has become the focal point for the increased intellectual enrichment of the surrounding community." Quinn said.

"Hartford Public Schools is extremely grateful for the collaboration and partnership of the Hartford Public Library and the work they do in service of our beautiful and capable students. Together, we are providing even more tools and resources for our students to succeed." Said Superintendent Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez of HPS. The 6-year-old Boundless program has been impacted over the course of its development by numerous challenges. Those challenges include the COVID pandemic which resulted in closure of both the library and the schools, staffing issues, flooding of HPL's Downtown Library, and



budgetary constraints primarily impacting the schools. Despite these challenges, the Boundless team has demonstrated remarkable ability to learn and adapt as the challenges have occurred to keep the program intact and progressing in line with its intended outcomes. “It is inspiring to work with a partner who champions the fundamental right to read. In professions increasingly under fire, this partnership has flourished” said Quinn.

The online awards ceremony was held on November 3rd. In attendance was a group of 4th and 5th graders from the Parkville School, loyal and frequent visitors to HPL’s Dwight Library. Principal Figueroa had invited the students to attend the awards ceremony by Zoom. The students cheered and celebrated HPL and HPS’ strong partnership.

About Hartford Public Library

With roots dating to 1774, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance and youth leadership training. www.hplct.org.

About Hartford Public Schools

Hartford Public Schools serves more than 16,500 PreK-12 students from Hartford and nearly 70 surrounding towns. They are one of the largest public school districts in Connecticut, with 39 schools, including 18 magnet schools. The District believes in their beautiful and capable students, high expectations, inclusiveness, collaboration, continuous improvement, and systemic accountability. Their Mission is to provide all our students with the learning and support they need to succeed in school and in life. Their Vision is that all students will graduate prepared to transform our world.

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