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Library's Homa Naficy Chosen 'Champion of Change'

Hartford, Connecticut (May 15, 2013) — Hartford Public Library Chief Executive Officer Matthew K. Poland announced today that Homa Naficy, the library's Chief Adult Learning Officer, has been chosen a "Champion of Change" by The White House as part of an initiative with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). She will be part of a national forum at The White House in June.

Responsible for the Library's educational services, learning opportunities, and programming for immigrants and refugees, Naficy founded The American Place at the Library, which is the fulcrum for these services.

"Homa Naficy is a superstar to the population she serves," said Poland, "because she is tireless in creating opportunities that help immigrants become acclimated to their new home."

Born in Paris, a native of Iran and a U.S. citizen since 2000, Naficy holds a master's degree from Rutgers University, and received the Connecticut Immigrant of the Year Award in 2001. On staff at Hartford Public Library since 2000, Naficy has made The American Place a magnet for new arrivals seeking immigration information, resources for learning English, and preparing for U.S. citizenship.

"I am honored to be a Champion of Change," Naficy said. "Our work in public libraries is central to the success of our democracy."

"Our White House Champions of Change event will focus on how library and museum professionals are making a difference in our country," said Mamie

Bittner, director of Communications and Government Affairs for the IMLS. She described Champions of Change as people who “out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world.”

About Hartford Public Library

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 865,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. To learn more about the library, please see www.hplct.org.