

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES SUMMER LEARNING  
WITH JUNE 6 KICKOFF FESTIVAL**

*"Every Hero Has a Story" to prevent summer learning loss*



Over 2,500 children and families enjoyed free entertainment and information about summer learning at Hartford Public Library's Summer Learning Kickoff Celebration in 2014

HARTFORD, Connecticut (May 29, 2015) – The start of summer may be a highly-anticipated break for all kids, but research shows that low-income students who do not continue educational programming during the summer suffer greater achievement losses, gain more weight, and become less likely to graduate high school than their more affluent peers. In order to fill this critical learning gap, Hartford Public Library's Summer Learning Program encourages reading and enrichment throughout the hotter months with citywide educational events, activities, and prizes. To celebrate the start of the 2015

Summer Learning @ HPL Program, **the public is invited to attend an outdoor kickoff festival on Saturday, June 6 from 12:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the Library's Downtown location!**

The festival will incorporate the theme of this year's Summer Learning Program, "Every Hero Has a Story" with science activities, crafts, games, and a special 3:00 p.m. *Mad Science* show. A bounce house, giant slide, face painting, airbrush tattoos, snacks, music and more will be free for all. Last year's kick-off broke attendance records with 2,500 kids and families having a blast! **The festival will take place at the Downtown Library at 500 Main Street and surrounding streets which will be closed to traffic (Arch Street and Sheldon Street between Main Street and Prospect Street). Free transportation will be available throughout the city via buses that will run between Library branches and Downtown Hartford. Information available at <http://summer.hplct.org/>**

In addition to the festival fun, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about and register for the Summer Learning Program and how to win prizes for reaching summer reading goals. Designed to maintain yearlong learning in an attempt to reduce summer learning loss in students of all ages, students move directly from school-year activities into Summer Learning @ HPL and parents with limited skills or access do not need to actively pursue educational opportunities in order for their children to achieve success. Program participants are challenged to read daily and log their participation in order to win prizes. **Hartford Public Library's Summer Learning Program has seen huge success in recent years - participation increased from 300 students in 2011 to over 5,500 students in 2014.**

Another way to celebrate summer learning at the Library is by attending Mega Education's summer registration parties! All youth and teens who have registered for summer learning that attend the party will be eligible to win one of two brand new Android tablets! Everyone who attends will receive free ice cream and other prizes. Come early to confirm your registration and to enter your name in the raffle box - only youth and teens attending the party are eligible, so your chances of winning are high!

Confirm your registration – 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Social and prizes - 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Registration Party Schedule:

Wednesday, June 24, Downtown Library, 500 Main Street

- Friday, June 26, Dwight Branch, 7 New Park Avenue
- Tuesday, June 30, Ropkins Branch, 1750 Main Street
- Tuesday, July 7, Mark Twain Branch, 55 Forest Street
- Thursday, July 9 Barbour Branch, 259 Barbour Street
- Tuesday, July 14, Goodwin Branch, 460 New Britain Avenue
- Thursday, July 16, Blue Hills Branch, 649 Blue Hills Avenue
- Friday, July 24, Albany Branch, 1250 Albany Avenue
- Friday, July 31, Park Branch, 744 Park Street
- Tuesday, August 4 Camp Field Branch 30 Camp Field Avenue

**Registration for the Summer Learning program can also be completed at the June 6 kickoff, or online at <http://summer.hplct.org/>**

**Summer Learning sponsors:**

The Stocker Foundation  
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving  
City of Hartford, Dept. of Families, Children,  
Youth and Recreation

Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund  
XL Insurance Mega Education

**Summer Learning partners:**

Hartford Public Schools  
Connecticut Reads 2015 -The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge  
Collaborative Summer Learning Program

**ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)**

As a finalist for the 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century as an innovative and stimulating place where people can learn and discover, explore their passions, and find a rich array of resources that contribute to a full life. Hartford Public Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Serving the residents of Hartford and beyond at its nine branches and Downtown location, Hartford Public Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org).

###