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## **Hartford Public Library’s Career Pathways Initiative to Hold Graduation Celebration April 4**

**(HARTFORD, CT: March 28, 2019)** Hartford Public Library’s national award-winning Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) will hold its 2019 graduation ceremony on Thursday, April 4, at 6 pm at the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street. Over 85 people from 31 different countries will be recognized for completing CPI’s ServSafe food service training program. CPI is an initiative of The American Place (TAP) at Hartford Public Library (HPL).

Hartford Public Library CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey, TAP Executive Director Homa Naficy and Lonnie Burt, Senior Director of Food and Child Nutrition Services for Hartford Public Schools, are among those scheduled to speak at the graduation ceremony, along with ServSafe students and representatives from food service institutions that have provided internships for the program.

The ServSafe program includes two different courses in sanitary methods of handling food in a professional environment: Food Handler and Food Manager. This year, 76 students completed the Food Handler class; seven finished the Food Manager class; and 12 completed both courses. Classes have been held at both the Downtown and Barbour libraries. All students also receive hands-on training at local food-service providers.

CPI was created in 2016 in order to help immigrants and others obtain secure, entry-level employment in the U.S. job market. While ServSafe courses are the centerpiece of CPI, the initiative also offers English classes, computer training and other programs designed to clear barriers to employment. To date, over 200 people have completed ServSafe courses. In 2018, the Urban Library Association presented a “Top Innovator” award to HPL for the CPI program. Funding for CPI is provided by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in order to help achieve its goal of “expanding sector-based job training in our region.”

“Because newcomers to this country face numerous barriers in obtaining jobs, Hartford Public Library decided to adopt a more robust and holistic approach than is usually found in traditional employment assistance programs,” said HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey. “The success that the Career Pathways Initiative has had in helping immigrants and others obtain secure employment clearly demonstrates the value of this approach.”

Partners of CPI include Capital Workforce Partners/American Job Center, Hartford Public Schools, Karibbean Kitchen, International House of Pancakes, Hands on Hartford, KNOX, Inc., Little Caesars Pizza and Trinity Health of New England/Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

## **ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Now celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> year, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Please visit [www.hplct.org](http://www.hplct.org).