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HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES THREE-YEAR CAREER PATHWAYS FOR IMMIGRANTS GRANT

HARTFORD, CT (December 28, 2015) – Hartford Foundation for Public Giving awarded Hartford Public Library a grant of \$165,375 over three years, through the Career Pathways Initiative, to enhance career pathways for immigrants within the food, tourism and hospitality industry by providing training in food preparation and services, as well as, job readiness and on-the-job training.

The Library is the lead agency in a partnership with Hartford Public Schools, Food & Child Nutrition Services, which will provide on-the-job training through its 35 full production school kitchens with the goal of hiring students who successfully complete the program.

The primary goal of the project is to promote economic integration of immigrants through access to entry-level job opportunities as food service workers that will facilitate career advancement and educational attainment. The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates a disproportionate share of immigrants are chronically un-employed or underemployed. Although the food and hospitality industry already employs a high number of immigrants, those employed in these positions often lack awareness of their workplace rights and how to navigate avenues for advancement.

Career Pathways for immigrants will also leverage other Library partnerships such as Capital Workforce Partners' American Job Center at the Downtown Library presently offering career and job placement services.

"Getting jobs is a powerful, life-changing achievement for immigrants that has an enormous impact on their future success, and the Library is delighted to partner with Hartford Public Schools and others to offer this program to our community," said Library CEO Matt Poland. "The Career Pathways initiative is a thread that pulls together everything we do and helps move Hartford Public Library forward as an educational provider for immigrants."

ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

As a finalist for the 2013 and 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as a 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 833,000 visits per year from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Visit www.hplct.org.

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