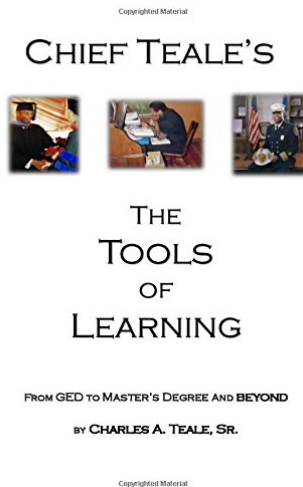




CONTACT:
Donna Larcen
Communications Specialist
Cell: 860-692-8955
dlarcen@hplct.org

For Immediate Release

Chief Teale Will Teach His Tools of Learning In Free Classes



Hartford, CT Sept. 29) — Retired Hartford Fire Chief Charles A. Teale Sr. is on a mission to teach young people his tools of learning. He'll be running his course on Mondays and Wednesday, 6 to 6:45 pm, for eight weeks in the downtown Library starting Oct. 17. The classes are open to both beginning and advanced readers ages 18 and older.

Chief Teale knows that it's like to have trouble in school.

"I dropped out of Hartford High School when I was 14 years old," says Teale, who served for 28 years as a member of the Hartford Fire Department, the last 10 as chief until he retired in 2009.

He worked hard for his success.

"At 17, I met with Walter "Doc" Hurley who became a mentor. He made me aware of the importance of persistence, getting an education, and being of service," says Teale, who later wrote a biography of Hurley, a beloved educator and sports coach in Hartford.

Teale had the desire to learn, but not the skills. He passed the GED test on his second try and enrolled in a local community college. He couldn't keep up his grade point average and left. He tried Manchester Community College. He failed again.

After watching fire fighters at work, he decided to join the force. But he knew he needed help to be a better student.

"One of the first places I went was the Hartford Public Library," he says, so he could study the history of the department. He talked to family friend Michael Booker, a fire fighter who sent him to talk with Cynthia Jennings, who ran Plan B, a test preparation service.

"I took her course four times," Teale says. He took the test for fire fighters and came out No. 7 in a field of 2000.

During training he met Eddie Lopez, another recruit, who taught Teale methods of learning he picked up in the military that emphasized reading for comprehension.

Teale bases his courses on his book, *Chief Teale's The Tools of Learning: From GED to Masters Degree and Beyond*. It tells his life story and includes a course workbook.

"You should never teach anyone anything unless you have taught them how to learn, how to understand, and how to remember that information," Teale says.

Sign up for Chief Teale's Tools of Learning by contacting Kenyon Grant at kgrant@hplct.org or 860-695-6320.

Hartford Public Library/500 Main St./Hartford CT 06103

