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For Immediate Release

Hartford Public Library Receives Grant from Travelers Foundation

Hartford, July 18, 2016 – Hartford Public Library has received a \$75,000 grant from the Travelers Foundation, the charitable arm of [Travelers](#).

The grant provides operational support for programs and services that improve the academic and career success of underrepresented students in the Hartford community. The Library hosts hundreds of classes, workshops and training opportunities at its ten branch locations every year.

Research suggests that, whether growing up in favorable or unfavorable circumstances, the factors that help young people along the developmental pathway are the same. They need to bond with supportive peer groups and caring adults, develop intense interests, have regular involvement in goal oriented activities, feel productive and accomplished, and have the ability to navigate diverse settings and relationships. In Hartford 67 percent of children enter kindergarten with one or more risk factors, based on their home environment. We see a direct correlation between kindergarten readiness and English Language Arts achievement in third and fourth grade and beyond. Leap into Learning provides an exceptionally innovative approach to early learning and literacy that meets the needs of our City's multicultural and multilingual residents in all early learning environments.

YOUmedia, the coolest place in town for teens, is a 21st century digital learning and maker space for hanging around, trying new things, and pursuing personal passions to achieve academic and career success. Over the last year, YOUmedia Hartford has focused its programs and services around creation, production, invention, and entrepreneurship.

Summer learning is about the discovery of the arts, science, technology, reading, and math. Every summer, our City's low-income youth risk losing two to three months in reading achievement while their higher-income peers make slight gains. And, our youngsters also risk losing about two months of grade-level equivalency in math skills in the summer. Year after year, these losses accumulate. By the end of third grade, four out of every five low-income students fail to read proficiently, making them four times more likely to drop out of high school. The Library and Hartford Public Schools have formalized a new partnership Boundless to address these issues. Together we are creating a comprehensive learning environment by supporting student learning and school success through programming and other activities that develop students' language, reading and critical thinking abilities. The Library also provides e-books and online collections of traditional media to students and learners across the City, and robust broadband connectivity and wireless access within our facilities. Every effort is made to provide all students with a Library card

Travelers is ensuring opportunity by contributing to efforts that create strong, vibrant communities and offer pathways to success. Through corporate funding and the Travelers Foundation, Travelers targets its giving to three key outcomes: [academic & career success](#), [thriving neighborhoods](#) and culturally enriched communities. With the primary focus of educating underrepresented students to lead tomorrow's workforce, Travelers also contributes to organizations that aid in developing communities through small business support and neighborhood revitalization, and enriching lives and learning through arts and culture.

About Hartford Public Library

Hartford Public Library is a national leader in redefining the urban public library in the 21st century. The Library provides free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. It also provides access to computers, job counseling and assists in exploring pathways to citizenship. It has free art events, music concerts and classes for all ages and interests. In 2015 the 10 locations of the Hartford Public Library counted 722,047 visits from adults, children and families seeking early literacy opportunities, work skills training, civic engagement, arts enrichment, and so much more. Please visit www.hplct.org.

About Travelers

The Travelers Companies, Inc. (NYSE: [TRV](#)) is a leading provider of property casualty insurance for [auto](#), [home](#), and [business](#). A component of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Travelers has approximately 30,000 employees and generated revenues of approximately \$27 billion in 2015. For more information, visit www.travelers.com.

