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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Two Workforce Development Organizations Honored with Hartford Public Library Community Partnership Awards**

HARTFORD, Connecticut (July 18, 2014) – At its annual June fundraising gala, Hartford Public Library (HPL) presented two Hartford organizations dedicated to workforce development with its first Community Partnership Awards. Representatives from honorees Capital Workforce Partners and Billings Forge Community Works accepted the awards from HPL CEO Matt Poland.

“We created this award to honor the valuable partnerships that exist between the Library and other community organizations, and to celebrate collective impact that successfully tackles real world problems and advances the public good,” said Poland. “This award is given to partners whose initiative, leadership, and involvement embody the spirit of genuine partnership and benefit the overall community.”

In considering recipients for the award, HPL recognized shared characteristics in the two organizations that exemplified positive partnerships, including the willingness to take risks, make big investments in their work within their communities, and tackle complex public challenges.

Billings Forge Community Works is a driving force for community participation and empowerment in Hartford’s Frog Hollow neighborhood through promoting access to healthy food; engaging youth; and developing employment opportunities and economically sustainable social enterprises. BFCW’s Kitchen at Hartford Public Library has expanded its successful job training program and farm-to-table café and catering service to Downtown Hartford.

As Connecticut’s regional workforce investment board in North Central Connecticut, Capital Workforce Partners (CWP) coordinates programs and initiatives to develop a skilled, educated and vital workforce. In partnership with HPL, CWP opened in 2012 the vibrant job and career center *CTWorks@HPL* in the Downtown Library, which has helped thousands find jobs, develop skills, and set courses for successful careers.

For more information about the partnerships and program mentioned, please visit [hplct.org](http://hplct.org)

**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).

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