



CONTACT:
Matthew K. Poland
Chief Executive Officer
860-695-6303
mpoland@hplct.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Earn an Accredited High School Diploma at Hartford Public Library

First in New England to provide Career Online High School for Free to Residents

Hartford, CT, September 23 — Hartford Public Library announced today that the Library is offering qualified residents the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate through *Career Online High School*, an innovative program brought to public libraries by Gale, a part of Cengage Learning. Part of the world's first accredited, private online school district, *Career Online High School* is specifically designed to reengage adults into the education system and prepare them for entry into post-secondary career education or the workforce. Currently, about 30% of Hartford adults aged 25 and over lack a high school degree or equivalent.

"Earning a high school diploma is a life-changing achievement," said Hartford Public Library CEO Matt Poland. "By offering *Career Online High School*, we're empowering our residents to seek new opportunities and transform their lives and it helps move Hartford Public Library from educational partner to educational provider."

Hartford Public Library will award scholarships for *Career Online High School* to qualified learners, aged 25 and over, looking to earn a high school diploma and advance their careers. Once enrolled, *Career Online High School* pairs each student with an Academic Coach, who assists with developing an individual career plan, offers ongoing guidance and encouragement, evaluates performance, and connects the learner with the resources needed to demonstrate mastery of the course material. Board-certified instructors support classes and students have 24/7 access to the online learning platform. Coursework begins in one of eight high-growth, high-demand career fields (across a wide spectrum from child care and education to certified transportation), before progressing to the core academic subjects. Many students are able to graduate in as few as 4 to 6 months by transferring in previously earned high school credits.

To help local residents who enroll in the program and may not have access to reliable Internet, Wi-Fi-enabled tablets will be made available so learners can complete their work remotely, or while in the library.

"We are grateful for the generous support of the Nutmeg Foundation, New Alliance Foundation and Bank of America without whom this program would not have been possible," said Poland.

Residents can learn more about *Career Online High School* and the enrollment process by visiting the Hartford Public Library or <http://www.hplct.org/cohs>. For more information on the economic impact of high school completion and the benefits of libraries, download the whitepaper [here](#) and watch the video [here](#).

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

CONTACT:
Matthew K. Poland
Chief Executive Officer
860-695-6303
mpoland@hplct.org

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. Please visit www.hplct.org.

ABOUT CENGAGE LEARNING AND GALE

Cengage Learning is a leading educational content, technology, and services company for the higher education and K-12, professional and library markets worldwide. Gale, a part of Cengage Learning, is a global provider of research resources for libraries and businesses for more than 60 years. Gale is passionate about supporting the continued innovation and evolution of libraries by providing the content, tools, and services libraries need to promote information discovery, enable learning, and support economic, cultural, and intellectual growth in their communities. For more information, visit www.cengage.com or www.gale.cengage.com.