



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Donna Haghighat, 860-695-6296, dhaghighat@hplct.org

State of Connecticut Recognizes Partnership of Hartford's Library and School District with a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

Hartford, Connecticut (August 22, 2013) — Hartford Public Library (HPL) is pleased to announce that it was awarded a five-year \$646,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Education to support the creation of the Owl Enrichment Center at Hartford Public High School's (HPHS) Law & Government Academy.

In the spring of 2011, Hartford Public Library and Hartford Public Schools (HPS) collaborated to relocate the library's Mark Twain Branch to Hartford Public High School's campus. Since then, an exciting and highly collaborative relationship has grown among HPL's library professionals and the educators at the HPHS Law & Government Academy, creating a national model for library-school collaboration. As a result, a reinvigoration of literacy-rich programming, resources, and community supports has become anchored in the learning community, above and beyond what the school was previously able to provide by itself. Inspired by our early experiences to plan jointly effective and quality high quality programming we sought to deepen our collaboration and extend our collective capacity to benefit to students, parents and the community.

"I want to congratulate and thank the Hartford Public Library for its ongoing commitment to enriching the academic lives of our students beyond the classroom," Superintendent Christina Kishimoto said. "Students learn better when they know that their whole community is invested in their progress."

The Owl Enrichment Center, named in celebration and recognition of the Hartford Public High School's mascot, will reinvent and reinvigorate after-school programming to provide HPHS students with academic supports and interventions, engaging arts, health and enrichment activities and empowering community programs for parents. The program will create safe, enriching spaces four days a week after school, on Saturdays and during the months of July and August. The program will:

- Serve 80 students in grades 9 through 12
- Provide 14.5 hours each week of additional support, learning and enrichment time

- Operate for 38 weeks throughout the school year beginning in late-September and running through August
- Provide daily support from one program coordinator, two certified teachers, one lead tutor, four tutors, and two enrichment activity leaders which represents a ratio of 1:10
- Provide students with the necessary resources to demonstrate college-ready skills in reading, writing and math
- Provide students with the necessary resources to complete a college-ready curriculum, including a Capstone experience
- Require every student to successfully complete a college application process and attend a financial planning workshop
- Engage and provide parents and guardians with significant programming tailored to their needs including a Monday “family night” with dinner.

As a result of this program, our students will become stronger readers, writers and critical thinkers who are more engaged in school and are inspired to contribute to society in productive and meaningful ways.

“This grant recognizes the importance of collective impact in our resource-strapped society. Alone, the outcomes can be incremental; but together, we have the capacity for significant impact,” said Matthew K. Poland, chief executive officer at Hartford Public Library.

About [Hartford Public Library](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library’s new blog at blogs.hplct.org

About [Hartford Public Schools](#):

Hartford Public Schools exists to provide all students with access to and participation in the global economy through attainment of the academic standards set by the State of Connecticut and readiness for post-secondary education. It serves approximately 22,000 in 53 schools and academies.

Additional information is available at <http://www.hartfordschools.org>.

###