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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### **Hartford Public Library Invests in 25 New Early Literacy Stations**

HARTFORD, Connecticut (December 3, 2013) – All Hartford Public Library Youth Departments recently received some new arrivals – a total of 25 brand new digital Early Literacy Stations created by AWE, Inc. The user-friendly, interactive stations look similar to desktop computers and provide over 60 programs and 1,500 activities in English and Spanish for children ages 2 to 8, covering 7 curriculum areas, including reading, writing, phonics, math and problem solving, science, and social studies. The programs correlate with Connecticut Common Core State Curriculum Standards and are designed to encourage early literacy development and self-guided learning.

“Studies show that early literacy skills are critical to educational success,” said Matt Poland, CEO of Hartford Public Library. “Our investment in technology to support early learning is an investment in the future of the Library’s youngest customers. These stations introduce important concepts and vocabulary in ways that children embrace – learning really can be fun!”

The acquisition of the new and additional Early Literacy Stations resulted from the increasing popularity of earlier versions of the programs that, according to Library staff, were in constant use. The stations served particularly helpful to the Library’s English language learners, and were often occupied by both children and their parents, working through the animated programs together.

Utilizing popular animated figures like *Dora the Explorer*, *Arthur*, and *Diego*, AWE, Inc. digital learning solutions have inspired 129,654,589 learning hours at over 7,000 schools and libraries throughout the country. With an intuitive framework requiring no internet connection, the Hartford Public Library's new stations offer a safe, secure and engaging learning environment. The Library's Youth Department staff is available to provide technical assistance if needed.

The Early Literacy Stations are available for use at Hartford Public Library's nine branch locations and its Downtown Library. For more information, contact Youth Services at 860-695-6330.

**About [Hartford Public Library](#)**

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations and a Library-on-Wheels 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](http://hplct.org) and the library's new blog at [blogs.hplct.org](http://blogs.hplct.org).

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