



Contact: Andy Hart
Hartford Public Library
860-695-6282
ahart@hplct.org

Sonia Botello Named Recipient of Hartford Public Library's 2018 Caroline Hewins Scholarship

(HARTFORD, CT: December 13, 2018) Hartford Public Library (HPL) has selected Sonia Botello of Glendale, Arizona as the winner of the 2018 Caroline M. Hewins Scholarship. The Hewins scholarship was established in 1926 to financially assist students who plan to specialize in library work with children. Caroline M. Hewins, who served as Hartford Public Library's chief librarian from 1875-1926, was a pioneer in opening up libraries to children.

Botello will receive \$4,000 to further her education through the Caroline M. Hewins Scholarship. A 2017 graduate of Arizona State University, she is currently enrolled in the San Jose State University's iSchool, where she is pursuing a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. In addition to being a full-time student, Botello works as a customer service assistant at the Velma Teague Branch Library in Glendale. Her job has strengthened her desire to pursue a career as a librarian. "Working at the library allows me to do what I love, which is to interact with kids and teens. I enjoy being around them, helping them, and having a great time with them in programs," she said. Botello plans to specialize in library services for teens and youth and said she hopes to eventually become a library branch manager.

HPL CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey said, "I am so proud that Hartford Public Library offers this scholarship to assist children's librarians of the future. Encouraging and assisting talented and motivated young people to enter library work, especially work with children and teens, is as wise an investment in the future as we can make. As a former children's librarian, I know the vital role this profession plays in starting children off on a life of learning," said Quinn-Carey.

After receiving the award, Botello said, "I am super excited and very grateful to have received the Hewins scholarship! The award has increased my motivation to earn a master's degree in Library and Information Science. This is definitely a sign that I should reach my goal of becoming a youth librarian!"

Marie Jarry, HPL Director of Central Public Services, was part of the Hewins Scholarship Committee and said, "Sonia was selected for her commitment to and passion for serving the children in her community as a youth librarian. She recognizes the role of the 21st century children's librarian as not only assisting youth with their education, but also developing their social skills and ensuring the library is a fun, safe and welcoming environment."

The Caroline M. Hewins Scholarship is open to those who plan to specialize in library work with children. Applicants must have received, or are about to receive a four year undergraduate degree; and must have applied for admission to a library school or are already attending a library school accredited by the American Library Association. Preference will be given to those who plan to pursue a career in public library service. Candidates are required to submit applications between July 1st and September 1st 2019. For guidelines and an application, go to: <https://www.hplct.org/about/caroline-m-hewins-scholarship>.

ABOUT HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Now celebrating its 125th year, Hartford Public Library remains at the forefront of redefining the urban library experience in the 21st Century. With seven locations throughout the city, the library provides education, intellectual enrichment and cultural development for thousands of children, youth and adults every year. Hartford Public Library has also gained local and national recognition for its wide range of new initiatives and partnerships designed to meet the needs of a diverse and dynamic city and region, including immigration services, employment assistance and youth leadership training. Please visit www.hplct.org.