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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Hartford's Mayor Segarra, Library CEO and School Leaders
Accept White House ConnectED Library Challenge**

(May 27, 2015) Leaders of the Hartford Public Library, Hartford Public Schools and the City of Hartford have accepted the White House ConnectED Library Challenge by joining together to ensure that every child in Hartford has a library card. This challenge will enhance the work of the school/library partnership that began in 2013 to improve education outcomes for all children and create a comprehensive learning environment in and out of school.

"As Mayor, I am proud to be a part of this challenge and I am proud of what our City's public education institutions are doing to leverage resources for the benefit of our children and their families," said Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra. "Our schools and libraries are committed to helping all students develop reading, math and digital literacy skills that are critical success factors of everyday life today."

"We are all committed to ensuring that our children have access to the education and resources they need to thrive in the 21st century," said Matthew K. Poland, Hartford Public Library's chief executive officer. "A library card opens the door to a wealth of resources that support language, reading and critical thinking abilities. Working together, we believe we can reach the greatest number of Hartford's children and have the greatest impact on their academic success."

"I'm thrilled about our partnership with Hartford Public Library and this exciting challenge because it demonstrates what can happen when Hartford's educational and governmental structures join forces to further improve student achievement," Superintendent Beth Schiavino-Narvaez said. "In particular, I anticipate that our collective work will have a positive impact on our efforts to have every child reading at grade level by third grade."

Library systems across the country are joining the White House ConnectED Library Challenge by pledging to provide local students with easily accessible information and educational resources through their neighborhood library. The national campaign is supported by the Institute

of Museum and Library Services, the Urban Libraries Council and the American Library Association.

About Hartford Public Library

As a finalist for the 2013 and 2014 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Hartford Public Library has been recognized as a 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 835,000 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.

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