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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY RECEIVES THREE-YEAR CAREER PATHWAYS FOR IMMIGRANTS GRANT**

Hartford, Connecticut (Dec. 28 , 2015) — The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has awarded a three-year grant of \$165,375 to the Hartford Public Library, in a partnership with Hartford Public Schools, to provide on-the-job training in school kitchens.

The project's primary goal is to give immigrants access to entry-level food service jobs. The target population is non-native English speaking immigrants 25 years or older who are permanent residents. This is a group that is chronically unemployed or under employed, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Hartford Public School's Food & Child Nutrition Services program is the largest supplier of food in Hartford. It operates the meal program for the 50 public schools. Thirty-five of them have full production kitchens; the remaining 15 are either satellite locations where food is delivered ready to be served, or have equipment to reheat the food. On-the-job training will take place in those kitchens.

The American Place at the library has an ongoing relationship with immigrants. In this new partnership, the library will provide two classrooms, a 24-station learning lab, a learning drop-in center with 12 computer stations, and eight tutoring rooms. Classes will meet to learn about the food industry, job readiness and online training. Another set of classes will train participants in the ServSafe program of the National Restaurant Association.

Staff from the library and the school system will meet monthly with an advisory group to evaluate progress.

Students who complete training will get ongoing support from the library and its American Job Center in searching for permanent work. It is expected that some of the graduates will work in the school system kitchens. They will be coached in networking opportunities and made aware of post-secondary education programs in culinary arts at the Manchester Community College.

The project is part of the Boundless program announced in December that formalizes initiatives between the library and the school system. The Boundless partnership will train and connect classroom teachers and library staff to provide seamless, one-on-one personal human attention to students of all ages to create more powerful learning experiences. It will link students and educators in each system to the resources of both systems. It will give students access to traditional and digital resources across

many platforms, including books, video, audio, periodicals, data, and the Internet and will ultimately provide broadband and wireless access for all students.

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 833,000 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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