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For Immediate Release

Career Pathways Graduation Ceremony at Hartford Library

March 6, 2018 — On Thursday, March 8, Hartford Public Library will honor 61 graduates of its Career Pathways Initiative in a ceremony beginning 6 pm in the Center for Contemporary Culture, on the main floor of the Downtown Library, 500 Main St.

The ceremony includes a welcome from HPL-CEO Bridget Quinn-Carey, and personal stories from some of the graduates.

The training program is funded by a three-year grant of \$165,375 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and two \$40,000 grants from the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Foundation.

Eleven groups from 24 countries have gone through the program, which is funded through June 30, 2019.

The program offers training for immigrants to work in the food, tourism and hospitality industries by providing classes in food preparation and services, job readiness and internships in kitchens for on-the-job training. The primary goal of the project is to promote economic integration of immigrants through access to job opportunities.

The Library is working in partnership with the Food & Nutrition Services of the Hartford Public Schools in its 35 school kitchens. Some students get training in the commercial kitchens of ImmaCare Solutions, Korobean Kitchen, Paradise Restaurant and Chick-fil-A.

There are two levels of classes over 12 weeks. The first is for students with little or no experience in food service, who are looking to work in entry level jobs. They receive 30 hours of training in the classroom using National Restaurant Association text books. They also spend 27 hours working in kitchens.

The second level is for students with experience who are looking to get into management positions and qualify to take the ServSafe certification test from the

National Restaurant Association. They spend 12 hours in the classroom and 45 hours in kitchens.