

Contact: Andy Hart
Communications Manager
Hartford Public Library



Voya Financial Funds Hartford Public Library's STEM Lab On-the-Go for Second Year

(HARTFORD, CT: Feb. 19, 2019) The Hartford Public Library (HPL) has been awarded a second year of funding for an initiative aimed at expanding access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Technology (STEM) education for Hartford school children..

The \$10,000 grant from Voya Foundation, the non-profit arm of Windsor-based Voya Financial, will allow HPL to continue its STEM Lab On-the-Go program and provide a series of semi-monthly training workshops for librarians who work with children and teens. This year, the library will also partner with the Connecticut Science Center to bring two of its traveling science programs to each of HPL's eight locations.

The initiative builds on HPL's long-standing commitment to supporting workforce development in Hartford. By working with Hartford Public Schools, the library is expanding access to STEM education and career opportunities for Hartford school children and preparing them for the workforce of tomorrow, said Bridget Quinn-Carey, HPL CEO.

"This grant for "teaching the teachers" has a multiplier effect in that our librarians will use the knowledge they gain to better instruct the many Hartford students who take advantage of our STEM Lab On-the-Go program," she said. "It's truly an investment in the future, given the rapidly growing number of jobs requiring STEM proficiency."

The workshops for librarians will be run by a STEM Specialist from Manchester Public Schools with a master's degree in STEM Education. Librarians will learn how to conduct inquiry-based science instruction and be provided with advanced training in teaching hot STEM areas such as robotics and coding.

The partnership with Connecticut Science Center will provide students with a dynamic learning experience while giving HPL staff the chance to learn how to present science programs from a highly-trained science educator. The science center runs the Mandell Academy for Teachers using modules from the California Academy of Sciences. As a result of the partnership with HPL, the center plans to develop new teaching modules for librarians and other educators working outside the classroom.

"Voya's grant-making is grounded in the belief that educators are the foundation of our communities and local economies," said Amy Barron, Vice President of Retirement Product at Voya Financial and a member of the HPL board. "As a Connecticut resident, I'm thrilled to see our funding benefit STEM

education programs that prepare students to compete in the 21st century workforce and contribute to the pipeline of local talent that organizations like Voya can draw on for years to come.””

Quinn-Carey is excited to be joining forces with the science center this year.

“Greater Hartford has so many resources, so many assets,” she said. “By partnering on projects in which our goals are aligned, we both up our games. We deliver far more to the city together than we can on our own.”

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.