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Hartford Public Library Receives Funding To Support After-School Enrichment Program at HPHS

(HARTFORD, CT: March 11, 2019) Staying after school will take on new meaning for Hartford Public High School (HPHS) students next fall, thanks to Hartford Public Library's new Boundless Opportunities @ HPHS, an after-school enrichment initiative. Hartford Public Library (HPL) received a \$382,500, 5-year grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education to fund Boundless Opportunities @ HPHS. HPL is one of only 29 recipients awarded by the state this year through the Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative and is the only library in Connecticut to be awarded a grant through this federal program.

Boundless Opportunities @ HPHS is designed to help students enhance their academic performance, college readiness, English language skills, cultural awareness, physical fitness and social-emotional growth. The program will leverage not only the library's resources, such as College NOW! and STEM Lab on the Go, but also those of several other partners in the program, including UConn-Hartford, UConn Health Center, Hartford YMCA, the Harriett Beecher Stowe Center, and the Wadsworth Atheneum.

This array of partners is essential to the [Connected Learning](#) approach which will be central to Boundless Opportunities @ HPHS. With this approach, Boundless Opportunities will allow students to engage with mentors and each other in a safe and welcoming environment and to explore future dreams through real time experiences.

"The Greater Hartford region is so rich in resources that bringing them all together is the key to success in virtually every initiative. The Boundless Opportunities @ HPHS perfectly illustrates how harnessing a wide variety of relevant resources, from both the community and within the library itself, can produce a program that will be as educationally enriching and stimulating," said Bridget Quinn-Carey, HPL CEO. "By selecting us for a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, the State Board of Education has recognized that public libraries are a vital component in our educational system."

"We are very excited and honored to partner with the Hartford Public Library and the students of Hartford Public High School. As committed community partners, we are looking forward to creating experiences and opportunities at UConn Hartford that will help the students discover and activate their many assets and strengths. The UConn Huskies stand ready to engage and explore learning with these students so they get excited about reaching their full potential," said Nadine Brennan, Associate Campus Director, UConn Hartford.

After-school sessions in the Boundless Opportunities @ HPHS will run Monday through Thursday from approximately 3:00 – 7:00 pm. Each session will start with dinner and a homework and tutoring period. Students will then travel to an activity aligned with their interests and goals. These activities will range from arts programs at the Wadsworth Atheneum and workouts at the YMCA to experiments at the STEM Lab on the Go and tutoring, academic skill development and experiential learning at UConn Harford. Following this, the students will close the session with a reflective discussion of the day's activities. In addition to the after-school sessions, there will also be field trips on selected Saturdays and a four-week summer enrichment program.

Boundless Opportunities @ HPHS will also include a robust set of activities designed to engage and assist the families of students enrolled in the program. Virtually all educators agree that family engagement is critical to student success. To achieve that engagement, HPL will enlist the support of various HPL services, such as GED classes and testing, English classes, employment assistance and training, citizenship classes and online certification programs. Family members will also be able to participate in selected student activities and will be part of a Family Action Network. This group will meet periodically to discuss student progress and development.

Boundless Opportunities @ HPHS is a product of the Boundless partnership formed in 2015 between Hartford Public Library and Hartford Public Schools to extend the library's vast array of resources and services to Hartford students and their families.

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.