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**Award-Winning Documentary Screening and Discussion on Race and Education
to be Held in Hartford on Feb. 8th**



Hartford Public Library Among First Institutions in the Nation to Host Newest PBS Film

HARTFORD, Connecticut (January 14, 2014) – Connecticut’s education achievement gap is an on-going problem, and recent studies indicate that race is a significant factor. However, questions remain: How does race affect the educational experience of a student? What can be done to close this gap? In order to shed light on this critical issue facing education systems throughout the state, **Hartford Public Library will host a screening of the PBS POV film “American Promise,” followed by a Community Conversation, on Saturday, February 8 at the Library’s Downtown Hartford location. The event will be begin at 1:00 PM, and is free and open to the public.**

“It’s clear that issues of race and education equality are deeply interconnected, no more so than right here in Hartford,” said Matt Poland, CEO of Hartford Public Library. “The Library is dedicated to

exploring these concerns and creating opportunities for the community to come together to discuss experiences and develop solutions. We're pleased to host a screening of this important documentary, and what will surely be an evocative and productive discussion."

Following the film, a conversation **moderated by Fox CT's Stan Simpson** will engage a panel of local educators, community leaders, and attendees in a dialogue surrounding issues of race and education in local communities. Panelists will include **Adam Johnson, Director of Secondary Education at Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), Milly Arciniegas, Executive Director of the Hartford Parent University**, and others. "American Promise" debuts on PBS Monday, February 3rd – Hartford Public Library is among the first institutions in the nation to host a screening.

"American Promise" is an intimate and provocative account, recorded over 12 years, of the experiences of two middle-class African-American boys who entered a very prestigious--and historically white--private school on Manhattan's Upper East Side. The Dalton School had made a commitment to recruit students of color, and five-year-old best friends Idris Brewster and Oluwaseun (Seun) Summers of Brooklyn were two of the gifted children who were admitted. The boys were placed in a demanding environment that provided new opportunities and challenges, if little reflection of their cultural identities.

For more information, please call 860-695-6300 or visit hplct.org.

ABOUT POV

Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and now in its 26th season on PBS in 2013, the award-winning POV is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. POV has brought more than 365 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide. POV films have won every major film and broadcasting award, including 32 Emmys, 15 George Foster Peabody Awards, 10 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, three Academy Awards® and the Prix Italia. Since 1988, POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. Visit www.pbs.org/pov.

ABOUT [HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations and a Library-on-Wheels in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Visit hplct.org and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org.

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