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Contact: Mary F. Crean, 860.695.6360, mcrean@hplct.org

Hartford Public Library Launches Community Dialogue on Adult Learning

Hartford, Connecticut (March 19, 2012) – Hartford Public Library is launching its new community dialogue *Adult Learning as a Pathway to Change*, at a Kick-off Thursday, March 22, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., at the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street. Refreshments will be served.

Community dialogues are structured, facilitated small group discussions that culminate in an action agenda. Multiple dialogue groups, each consisting of about ten people, will meet once per week for four weeks in April at various Hartford locations.

Mayor Pedro Segarra will speak at the Kick-off event as will Estela Morales, Family Literacy Facilitator at Hartford's Adult Education Center, and Doe Hentschel, Vice President, Leadership Greater Hartford. Each will share their personal transformative experience with adult learning. In addition, a brief sample community dialogue will be conducted so that attendees can experience the process.

In 2010, the Library received a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services to conduct an Immigrant Civic Engagement Project. Community dialogues are one of the project strategies and are designed to engage immigrants with others in the community to act together on an important issue while building valuable relationships.

The topic of adult learning (such as job training, ESL, or continuing education) was chosen due to its high impact on many people. Whether immigrants or others, more people than ever are taking advantage of adult learning to acquire new skills for employment or self-enrichment.

Mayor Segarra said, "I know from personal experience the value of adult learning opportunities. Many Hartford residents can benefit from joining this community dialogue to work collectively towards reducing barriers and improving results for adult learners. I am delighted to help launch this initiative."

For more information or to sign up to participate, call Elaine Rosales at 860-695-6294 or email ims@hplct.org

About [Hartford Public Library](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations 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