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***Legislators and Library Patrons
Show Their Support for the Library***

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library hosted a Legislative Breakfast on Friday, February 12. The event was well attended, with legislators, library supporters, and patrons coming out to show their support for the library.

State representatives, senators and community members spoke on behalf of the library and emphasized the need for funding and support in 2016 and beyond.

After a welcome by Head Library Geoffrey Dickinson, President of the WPL's Board of Directors, Deborah Packard, was the emcee for the event and introduced each of the speakers. A list that included City Manager, Edward M. Augustus, Jr.; Mary Ann Cluggish, Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; Representative Dan Donahue; Representative Mary Keefe; Representative James J. O'Day., and Representative Kate Campanale.

Senator Harriette Chandler; Senator Michael Moore; - he didn't speak and Representative John Mahoney also spoke up in support of the library. The legislators urged the public to contact their representatives to urge them to support funding for libraries.

Senator Dan Donahue stressed the importance of the library during his speech. "It's not just about the books," he said. "It's about programming, access to technology – we need to hear from you."

The highlight of the event came at the end of the program when three library patrons took to the podium to describe how important the Worcester Public Library has been in their lives.

Mariana Tollero-Monroy described her immigration from Columbia, the amount of work she put in to earning her citizenship and start her own business, and the importance the Citizenship Class at the library had in her journey.

Talking Book Library Patron Mary Haroyan discussed the role books have played in her life over the years, and the importance of the Talking Book Library in allowing her to continue reading as her eyesight deteriorated.

Teen patron Briyana Chataigne was the last of the speakers, and her words expressed how important the library has been for her development during her teen years. "It's been my safe place," she said. "It's been a place to escape and get advice from friends, whether real or fictional."

The overarching theme of the breakfast was the importance of adequate funding for libraries, in order to preserve the current level of services so important to members of the community.

For more information on the Worcester Public Library and a complete list of events and programs visit www.mywpl.org. For more information on School Vacation Week at the Worcester Public Library contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654 or lsheldon@mywpl.org.

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