



For Immediate Release

Media Contact

Eileen Force Cahill

(414) 286-3032

eforce@milwaukee.gov

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY ENTERS INTO HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP WITH MPS
TO GIVE 65,000 STUDENTS DIGITAL LIBRARY CARDS**

LibraryNow offers complete digital access to MPL resources to every MPS student

March 6, 2017 – During his annual State of the City address this morning, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett announced that the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) and Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) have entered into an historic partnership to provide complete, free digital access to all the library's online resources to every student in the district.

LibraryNow, as the program is called, gives every MPS student from 1st -12th grade access to online tutoring help, book and music downloads, magazines, games, research databases and more, simply through using their MPS student ID number. ***LibraryNow*** gives students access to the full array of online resources offered by MPL wherever they are – in school, at home, on tablets, phones, laptops or desktop computers. ***LibraryNow*** also allows students to log on and use computers at all library branch locations.

“We are focused on strengthening the connection between library resources and our city residents through a myriad of ways,” **said Milwaukee Public Library Director Paula Kiely**. “By expanding educational and entertainment programming, offering a Fine Forgiveness campaign, and increasing hours at a number of neighborhood branch locations, we have been able to bring more residents into the library to read, learn and connect – to each other and our resources. ***LibraryNow*** will expand learning opportunities for MPS students through help with schoolwork and skill development, ultimately providing lifelong benefits.”

Students can access ***LibraryNow*** through the MPS student portal or by visiting LibraryNow.org. The program was developed by Milwaukee Public Library, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Mayor Tom Barrett's office in concert with a 2016 White House initiative called “ConnectED,” which strives to bring community leaders together around a shared educational goal of improving education outcomes for children around the nation through increased use of digital resources.

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Students are encouraged to visit their local neighborhood branch of Milwaukee Public Library to upgrade to a full access card which allows them to check out materials. For students who have had their previous cards blocked due to fines or fees, library staff will be available to restore access.

“Public libraries are one of our city’s greatest treasures,” said Mayor Tom Barrett. “That is why we have made significant investment in our neighborhood branches. The library is a place that enhances early literacy, assists with school work, provides job training, and much more. *LibraryNow* brings so much of the value of our system right to students wherever they are, and will have a lasting impact on our students.”

For more information about LibraryNOW, visit www.librarynow.org

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About Milwaukee Public Library

Milwaukee Public Library is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee. Since 1878, Milwaukee Public Library has been a free provider of education and information for residents of Milwaukee and beyond. With 14 locations, and more than three million items in circulation, MPL offers free access to a rich collection of materials both physical and digital, access to technology, classes, exhibitions, programming and more. From toddlers to scholars, MPL serves more than one million patrons who come through its doors annually and many more around the globe who use its resources at www.mpl.org. To offer this wide array of free programming, MPL relies on both public and private funding. Learn more about how to support Milwaukee Public Library at mpl.org/support.