



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **YWCA Hartford Names Chief Program Officer**

*Donna Sodipo, National Community Builder and Program Development Expert, Joins YWCA Hartford in Leadership Role*

November 8, 2019, Hartford, CT --- YWCA Hartford Region announces the appointment of Donna Sodipo as Chief Program Officer. She will serve as part of the leadership team, led by Adrienne W. Cochrane, Chief Executive Officer.

Sodipo brings more than twenty-five years of transformative leadership and education reform experience in mission-driven organizations. As Chief Program Officer, Sodipo will develop, implement and evaluate YWCA Hartford Regions programs, increase capacity in order to meet the growing needs of the Greater Hartford community, and strengthen community partnerships.

Prior to joining YWCA Hartford Region, Sodipo served as Senior Vice President of Education at Connecticut Public, where she spearheaded the organization's education strategy and learning initiatives to help advance the mission. In addition, she served as the chief fundraiser for CT Public Learning, securing more than \$9 million for education programs to inform, educate, and inspire a diverse community.

"It is an honor to have Donna join the YWCA Hartford Region team in this critical role for both the organization and the community," said Adrienne W. Cochrane, Chief Executive Officer.

"Donna brings her nationally recognized expertise in community building and program development at a time when the work of YWCA Hartford is needed now more than ever. More importantly, her dedication and tireless efforts in the Hartford community will continue to transform and inspire the lives of the women, young girls and families we serve."

Sodipo served more than eight years with Connecticut Public. Her previous experience includes creating a diverse range of education models and community engagement programs with Our Piece of the Pie, the Jackie Robinson Foundation, Cathe & Associates, and the Manchester Board of Education.

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She currently serves on the Board of Directors for United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, The Betty Knox Foundation, and a member of the school design steering committee at Weaver High School. Sodipo is also an alumna of Leadership Greater Hartford's Summit Leadership and Quest programs, Bank of America—Neighborhood Builders Emerging Leaders program, and a former social enterprise advisor with ReSet.

Sodipo received her master's degree in Education from the University of Connecticut, and a bachelor's degree from Central Connecticut State University.

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