FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
1/23/15

Media Contact:
Bruce Silverstone
Vice President – Corporate Communications
Aquarion Water Company
Phone: (203) 336-7658

BRIDGEPORT'S GERMAR GARDNER HEADS FOR THE
RED CARPET AT THE SCREEN ACTORS GUILD'S 2014 AWARDS SHOW

BRIDGEPORT, CONN. – January 23, 2015 – Bridgeport-native Germar Terrell Gardner could be going home with a coveted 2014 Screen Actors Guild Award after the organization's gala event this coming Sunday night, January 25. The awards honor the year's outstanding film and television performances.

Gardner plays C.O. Charles Ford in the hit Netflix series *Orange is the New Black*. He joined the show last year in what was supposed to be a single appearance. But the producers liked what they saw and brought him on as a recurring character.

Born and raised in Bridgeport, Gardner was introduced to the arts early by his father, who recited poems from Langston Hughes and the writings of W.E.B. DuBois to his children. At first Gardner thought football would be his ticket to stardom. But then a high school class in creative writing changed his mind.

Gardner went on to graduate from college with a double major in print journalism and television production. After working part-time for Aquarion Water Company – where his mother was and still is employed – he landed a job with New Haven's ABC affiliate, WTNH News Channel 8.

In 2011, while taking acting classes and honing his craft with the Alan Gordon Acting Studio in New York, Gardner stumbled upon an audition notice. It led to him being named to his first starting role, playing in an Off-Broadway production of August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *The Piano Lesson*.

In 2014 came the invitation to join the cast of *Orange is the New Black*. In December, he and the rest of the ensemble learned they'd been nominated for a 2014 Screen Actors Guild Award. There hasn't been much time for celebration, though – Gardner is now busy shooting the show's third season, due for release on Netflix this summer.

###