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**ARIZONA HOTELS ARE CELEBRATED WITH NATIONAL AWARDS FROM THE  
AMERICAN HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION**

**Phoenix, Ariz., April 2014**— Arizona took center stage and took home two national awards at the American Hotel & Lodging Association’s ([AH&LA](http://AH&LA)) annual Stars of the Industry awards ceremony held this week in Washington, DC.

The “**Outstanding Manager of the Year, Large Property**” was awarded to Thomas Williams, Director of Guest Services at the [Fairmont Scottsdale Princess](http://Fairmont Scottsdale Princess). Williams has been providing a welcoming experience for guests entering his property for the past 21 years. As the Director of Guest Services, he has put in place many new procedures to improve and enhance the arrival and departure experience, transportation, guest safety and much more. But he also cares about the internal guest and is truly devoted to the resort’s employees. He and his family cater an annual holiday feast and invite employees and even hotel guests who have no family in town.

Winning the **Special Events, One-time Only, Medium Property**, was the [W Scottsdale](http://W Scottsdale) for their CHILL event. CHILL at the W Scottsdale transforms the WET pool deck from November to January with Scottsdale’s first and only hybrid and eco-friendly outdoor ice skating rink. This event also includes live music performances, DJs, drink specials and special resort packages.

“I’m so proud to represent an industry in our state with so much talent and passion for excellence,” said AzLTA President & CEO, Debbie Johnson. “It’s wonderful that the hard work and dedication of these lodging professionals and properties is being recognized on a national level and I truly commend them for their accomplishments.”

Winners from the Arizona Stars of the Industry Awards luncheon hosted in December by the Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association were then submitted to the AH&LA for national judging.

The [Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association](http://Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association) (AzLTA) is the leading public policy advocate for Arizona’s Lodging and Tourism Industries. Representing almost 40,000 rooms statewide and nearly 500 members, including hotels, resorts, attractions, destination marketing organizations, B&B’s and related Industry partners, AzLTA’s mission is to unify, protect, educate and promote the interests of the Arizona Lodging and Tourism Industries.

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