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**Contact:** Kristen Jarnagin  
Sr. Vice President  
602-604-0729 | [kjarnagin@azlta.com](mailto:kjarnagin@azlta.com)  
[AzLTA.com](http://AzLTA.com) | @aztourismpays



**ARIZONA HOTEL ASSOCIATE NAMED BEST IN THE U.S. BY THE  
AMERICAN HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION**

**Phoenix, Ariz., April 2014**— A long-time Arizona lodging and tourism employee took center stage 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 Lodging Employee of the Year, Small Property**” was awarded to **Camilo Casiano**, a Steward at the Enchantment Resort in Sedona, Arizona. Casiano has been a dedicated employee of the resort for 23 years with a nearly perfect attendance record. This is even more impressive because there is no public transportation to the resort and he doesn’t own a car. For more than 20 years, Casiano has hitchhiked to and from work daily. Earlier this year he decided to retire at the age of 75, but at the behest of his co-workers, he agreed to stay on in a part-time capacity and still outworks and outshines most.

“In my entire career, no one deserves this award more,” said President of Enchantment Group, Mark Grenoble. “He’s the hardest worker I’ve ever met.”

The Stars of the Industry awards program was created more than 40 years ago to recognize outstanding accomplishments in the lodging industry. While the categories have evolved over the years, the concept is still the same — to honor lodging employees and properties that best symbolize the quality service of the industry.

“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 contributions and dedication of hard-working associates like Camilo is recognized on a national level and I truly commend him for his accomplished career.”

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://ArizonaLodging&TourismAssociation) (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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