



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Lodging & Tourism Industry Awards Top Staff and Hotel Programs at 2015 “Stars of the Industry” Luncheon**

Phoenix, AZ – (December 2015) –The shining stars of the hospitality and tourism industry were celebrated at the annual [Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association](#) (AzLTA) **Stars of the Industry** awards luncheon, held last week at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess.

The Stars of the Industry award was created more than 40 years ago by the American Hotel & Lodging Association 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 and tourism employees who best symbolize the quality service of the industry.

### **The 2015 Stars of the Industry Winners**

#### **Outstanding Manager of the Year**

Kenneth Harvey, Executive Chef, Loews Ventana Canyon Resort

#### **Outstanding Employee of the Year**

Brooke Nielson, Adventure Club Supervisor, Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa

#### **Tourism Employee of the Year**

Susan Hartin, Outreach Coordinator, Arizona State Parks

#### **Front of the House Manager of the Year, Small Property**

Barbara Cote, Front Desk Manager, Best Western Premier Grand Canyon Squire Inn

#### **Front of the House Manager of the Year, Large Property**

Carlos Hassey, Director of Tennis, Wigwam Resort

#### **Heart of the House Manager of the Year, Small Property**

Julie Larkin, Director of Style, W Scottsdale

#### **Heart of the House Manager of the Year, Large Property**

Sue Carter, Employment & Training Manager, Fairmont Scottsdale Princess

#### **Food & Beverage Employee of the Year, Small Property**

Sharon Furtney, ZuZu Server, Hotel Valley Ho

**Food & Beverage Employee of the Year, Large Property**

Frank D'Amato, Restaurant Host, Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia

**Guest Service Employee of the Year, Small Property**

Dusko Vuckovic, Doorman, Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North

**Guest Service Employee of the Year, Large Property**

Jim Dwyer, Bell Captain, Arizona Grand Resort & Spa

**Engineering Employee of the Year, Small Property**

Luis Silva, Engineering, Enchantment Resort

**Engineering Employee of the Year, Large Property**

Jim Johnson, Engineering Coordinator, Sheraton Grand Phoenix

**Property Achievement** awards in four categories were also announced at the event.

These awards highlight programs that showcase the involvement of multiple employees and departments which go above and beyond to build a better community internally and externally.

**Community Service, Lodging**

The Phoenix Marriott Tempe at The Buttes

**Community Service, Tourism**

HSMAI Arizona Chapter

**Good Earthkeeping, Lodging**

The Phoenician

**Good Earthkeeping, Tourism**

Grand Canyon National Park Lodges - Xanterra

**Guest Relations**

The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa

**Special Event: One Time**

Litchfield's at the Wigwam Resort

**Special Event: Ongoing**

Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, "4<sup>th</sup> of July Freedom Fest"

**Special Event: Ongoing, Tourism**

HSMAI Arizona Chapter, "33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chinese Auction"

For more detailed information on individual winners, please contact AzLTA at (602) 604-0729. Images are also available upon request. Follow Us on Twitter @AZLTANews and Like Us at [www.Facebook.com/AzLTA](http://www.Facebook.com/AzLTA).

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