



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kristen Jarnagin
Sr. VP of AzLTA
E-mail: Kjarnagin@azlta.com
Phone: 602-604-0729

**ARIZONA'S LODGING INDUSTRY AWARD HIGHEST HONORS AT THE
10TH ANNUAL UNITY DINNER**

PHOENIX (March 6, 2014) – The Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association ([AzLTA](http://AzLTA.com)) recognized the Grand Canyon as the Tourism Honoree of the Year during its annual **Tourism Unity Dinner** at The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa on February 12th. Each year the tourism industry comes together to celebrate it's positive impact on the state the accomplishments of Arizona's second largest industry and to recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to furthering the successes of Arizona Tourism.

In addition to honoring the Grand Canyon, the evening recognized industry leaders in the categories of: Hotelier of the Year, Tourism Partner and Tourism Legacy. Special recognition awards were bestowed to Governor Brewer and Sherry Henry, on behalf of the Arizona Office of Tourism, for their efforts in reopening the Grand Canyon during the government shutdown.

2014 Award Recipients are:

Hotelier of the Year:

Paige Lund, General Manager, Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel

This proven leader has been working her way up in Arizona tourism for many years and has dedicated countless hours to ensuring that our lodging and tourism industry has a strong, united voice. She serves as a member of the AzLTA Board of Directors, the NAU School of Hotel & Restaurant Management Advisory Board and is actively involved in the Women in Lodging Committee.

Tourism Partner:

Glenn Hamer, President & CEO, Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Thanks to the visionary leadership at the Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry, led by Glenn Hamer, Arizona tourism - for the first time in history - is part of the Chamber's platform and focus. Not only did the Chamber ask AzLTA to serve as an Executive Committee Member on their Board of Directors, but they also created the first ever Tourism and Trade Committee and asked Debbie Johnson to serve as chair so that the tourism industry's policy issues and goals can now be incorporated into the Chamber's overall agenda.

-more-

Tourism Legacy

Win Holden, Arizona Highways Magazine

A long-time Valley publisher and ad exec, Win Holden. He served as Chairman of the Fiesta Bowl and Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Boards of Directors and chaired the Phoenix Pride Commission. Holden is immediate Past-President of the Endowment Board of the ASU Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications, and chaired the Phoenix Citizen's Transit Commission. He served as Chairman of the Arizona Centennial Commission and President of the Centennial Foundation Board of Directors and is Chairman of the Board of the Greater Phoenix Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the Executive Committee of the Arizona Lodging & Tourism Board of Directors.

Winners were selected by an Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association committee of industry experts and were based on set criteria for each category.

The Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association (AzLTA) is the leading public policy advocate for Arizona's Lodging and Tourism Industries. Representing more than 38,000 rooms statewide and more than 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. For more information, visit www.azlta.com.

###