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**First Place AZ Elects Bo Calbert to its Board of Directors**

PHOENIX (January 10, 2017) — First Place®AZ has elected Bo Calbert, the recently retired president of McCarthy Building Companies' Southwest Division, to serve on its Board of Directors.

First Place AZ is a 501(c)3 non-profit working hard to ensure that housing options for people with autism and other special abilities are as bountiful as they are for everyone else. In December 2016, First Place®AZ broke ground on First Place-Phoenix, a new \$15 million, 81,000-square-foot residential property, located at 3001 N. Third Street in Phoenix.

For 35 years, Calbert worked with McCarthy. In more recent years, he led the firm's operations throughout the Southwest including projects in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. He also played a leadership role in expanding McCarthy's presence in both existing and new markets across the U.S.

"Bo has been a tireless champion of individuals with autism for decades. He also brings strategic business acumen, real estate expertise and strong relationships in the community which will serve our Board well and complement our existing talents," said Sara Dial, Board chair.

Calbert serves on the advisory board for the Alliance for Construction Excellence. He is a member of Greater Phoenix Leadership, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and the Associated General Contractors' Project Delivery Committee. In 2016, Calbert was named to the Presidents Circle of Distinction by the Association for Career Technical Education of Arizona (ACTEAZ) for his contribution to Career and Technical Education. He was also recognized as Mentor of the Year by the Phoenix Business Journals Landmark Leader Awards in 2016.

"It's an honor to be selected to serve on the Board of First Place AZ. The work First Place is doing is critical to all communities across the U.S. It's exciting to be part of the first property and know that it's the first of many to come," Calbert said.

Calbert earned a master's degree in construction management from Pittsburg State University and a bachelor's degree in construction management from Missouri State University. He lives in Paradise Valley, Ariz., with his wife, Lani.

For more information or to become involved, email [info@firstplaceaz.org](mailto:info@firstplaceaz.org) or visit [www.firstplaceaz.org](http://www.firstplaceaz.org).

**About First Place AZ**

*First Place® AZ is a nonprofit organization advancing innovative residential options for adults with autism and other special abilities. Led by market principles, First Place is creating replicable, residential and post-secondary education models that promote collaboration among the private, public and nonprofit sectors, and that serve as catalysts for advancing public policy focused on housing solutions for special populations. Recipient of the 2016 HeroX [Autism Speaks House to Home Prize](#) for its “belief-busting breakthrough” idea in housing and residential supports, First Place celebrates neuro-diversity, independent living and its belief that housing options for people with autism and other special abilities should be as bountiful as they are for everyone else. To learn more, visit [www.firstplaceaz.org](http://www.firstplaceaz.org) and check out these 2016 PBS NewsHour segments: [“Giving Adults with Autism the Skills to Build Independent Lives”](#) and [“How Phoenix Became the Most Autism Friendly City in the World”](#).*