



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**First Place®AZ Announces Fellowship Program for ASU Doctoral Students**

***Fellows to Live and Work in Residential Property and Supportive Community  
Responsive to Adults with Autism and Other Neurodiversities***

PHOENIX (December 14, 2017) — [First Place® AZ](#) is offering two-year fellowships for doctoral students in Arizona State University's College of Public Service and Community Solutions. The fellowship allows students to live and work at First Place–Phoenix and in the Greater Phoenix community dubbed by PBS NewsHour as “the most autism-friendly city in the world.” First Place is seeking up to 10 ASU fellows.

The fellowships begin next summer, when First Place–Phoenix, a new 81,000-square-foot, \$15.3 million residential property, opens to residents with autism and other different abilities in the heart of the city at 3001 N. Third Street and near the ASU Downtown Phoenix campus.

The inaugural First Place fellowship is a two-year award that includes a \$20,000 annual salary as a part-time staff position at ASU with benefits, including tuition. Fellows work as ASU employees 20 hours per week. Fellowships also cover the First Place apartment lease. Fellows are dedicated to the work of the First Place Global Leadership Institute and serve as supportive neighbors. Applications are due by Jan. 15, 2018. [Apply here.](#)

“Fellows will advance the work of the First Place Global Leadership Institute through research, training, real estate and community development, communications and public policy,” says Denise D. Resnik, First Place founder, president and CEO. “They will experience incomparable leadership development opportunities advancing this field and empowering special populations to lead more independent lives that are truly integrated into the fabric of our community.”

First Place fellows will also receive training from ASU and First Place Global Leadership Institute faculty and advisors that ranges from functional life skills, wellness coaching and career exploration to community navigation and social integration.

“Our collaboration with First Place demonstrates our interdisciplinary approach and commitment to preparing students for community engagement, public service and impact,” says Jonathan Koppell, Ph.D., dean of the [College of Public Service & Community Solutions](#) at ASU. “We’re driven to make communities more prosperous, inclusive, healthy and resilient for everyone.”

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

**WHO:** ASU College of Public Service & Community Solutions doctoral students

**WHAT:** First Place® AZ fellowships

**WHEN:** Applications due Jan. 15, 2018

**WHERE:** First Place–Phoenix, 3001 N. Third Street in Phoenix. First Place–Phoenix is a new 81,000-square-foot, \$15.3 million residential property for adults with autism and other neurodiversities opening near access to light rail early next summer.

**LEARN MORE:** [Apply here.](#)

### **About First Place AZ**

*First Place® AZ is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization advancing innovative residential options for adults with autism and other neuro-diversities. Led by market principles, First Place is creating replicable, residential and post-secondary education models that promote collaboration among the private/public/philanthropic/nonprofit sectors, serving as a catalyst 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 a 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 [firstplaceaz.org](http://firstplaceaz.org). View the 2016 PBS NewsHour segments at [“Giving Adults with Autism the Skills to Build Independent Lives”](#) and [“How Phoenix Became the Most Autism-Friendly City in the World.”](#)*