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**First Place Elects Board Officers, New Board Member**

PHOENIX, Ariz. – August 25, 2016 – First Place® AZ, a local non-profit working hard to ensure that housing options for people with autism and other special abilities are as bountiful as they are for anyone else, has elected its new Board officers and a new Board member.

First Place is advancing new residential options for adults with autism and related disorders, and is underway on First Place-Phoenix, a transit-oriented property sited in the heart of the city at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Catalina. Groundbreaking is expected in 2016.

First Place AZ Board of Directors' new officers include:

- Sara Dial, Board Chair; President and CEO, Sara Dial & Associates
- Nancy White, Vice Chair; Partner, Steptoe & Johnson
- Joe Cooper, Treasurer; Business Consultant and Former NYSE Company Executive
- Tess Burleson, Secretary; Chief Operating Officer of the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and President of TGen Health Ventures

Jack Henry, Founder and Managing Director of Sierra Blanca Ventures, LLC, has also been elected to join the board. He has served as a Member of the TPI Composites Board of Directors since 2008. Henry also currently serves on the Board of Directors and chairs the audit committee of Grand Canyon Education as well as the boards of directors and audit committees of several private companies. He is President of the Arizona Chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors. From 1966 to 2000, Henry worked as a certified public accountant for national accounting firm Arthur

Andersen. He retired in 2000 as Managing Partner of the Phoenix office. Henry received a Bachelor of Business Administration and M.B.A. from the University of Michigan.

Other board members include: Rob Leinbach, the former president and COO of Walton Global Holdings, and Denise D. Resnik, First Place AZ founder and president/CEO.

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### **About First Place AZ**

First Place<sup>®</sup> 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 serve as catalysts for advancing federal 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 PBS NewsHour segments: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/giving-adults-autism-skills-build-independent-lives/> and <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/phoenix-became-autism-friendly-city-world/#>.