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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Finalists Announced – 2015 SWAE Leadership Award**

PHOENIX, AZ (December 18, 2014) - The Southwest Alliance for Excellence (SWAE) is proud to announce the 3 finalists for the 2015 Leadership Award: David Dexter of Sonora Quest Laboratories, Bill Hoddy of Intel Corporation and Jacob Snow of the City of Henderson, NV.

The finalists were selected by a committee of individuals with a high level of experience in organizational excellence, and understanding of the SWAE core values. The SWAE Leadership Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership in the pursuit of performance excellence and has furthered performance improvement beyond the boundaries of their organization. This is the inaugural year of the award and will be given out annually.

David Dexter joined Sonora Quest Laboratories / Laboratory Sciences of Arizona in 1999 as President & CEO and quickly helped lead the organization through a business turnaround by re-establishing and embedding a commitment to Quality throughout SQL/LSA. David's help and leadership in introducing a companywide Quality Management System allowed SQL/LSA to grow into one of the largest integrated laboratory networks in the nation. David has also expanded his breadth of leadership by being highly involved in multiple health related boards, councils, societies and initiatives throughout the state of Arizona.

Bill Hoddy, a 26 year veteran of Intel Corporation, is a Business Process Quality Engineer and a Lean Bronze Sensei who has a long term passion for Continuous Quality Improvement. For over a decade, Bill has enhanced Arizona communities by sharing his knowledge of quality improvement through volunteerism with numerous organizations including local non-profits, educational institutions and government agencies. Through the Intel Mentoring and Planning Services (MAPS) initiative Bill has also helped coach many organizations in improving their business processes to more efficiently meet the needs of their clients, learners and tax payers.

Jacob Snow is a native to Southern Nevada who strongly believes in giving back in order to make his community a better place and has spent his entire career serving in various positions throughout Clark County Nevada. He has served as the City of Henderson City Manager since



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2012. Jacob acted with integrity and transparency by reaching out to the community for assistance in addressing the City's budget and cost containment efforts. As City Manager, Jacob demonstrated his dedication for continuous improvement by establishing the Henderson Quality Initiative (HQI), a quality approach which is modeled after a national quality model; which has now been successfully implemented for two years running and is continuing to mature and improve the quality of life in the City of Henderson.

The recipient of the inaugural SWAE Leadership Award will be announced at the annual SWAE Performance Excellence Program Award Banquet on January, 27, 2015 at the Chaparral Suites Resorts in Scottsdale, AZ. For more information visit [www.swae.org](http://www.swae.org).

Established in 1990, The **Southwest Alliance for Excellence** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that advances improvement and excellence in organizations, communities and individuals throughout Arizona, Nevada and Utah by using the Baldrige Criteria.

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