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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Amanda Goodson –Recipient of the 2018 SWAE Leadership Award**

PHOENIX, AZ (February 12, 2018) – The Southwest Alliance for Excellence (SWAE), announced at its 25th Performance Excellence Program Awards Banquet, Amanda Goodson, Senior Manager, Program Management Excellence, Accelerating Talent Office at Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, AZ, as the recipient of the 2018 SWAE Leadership Award.

The Southwest Alliance for Excellence Leadership Award is an annual award recognizing an individual who exemplifies outstanding leadership in the pursuit of performance excellence and has furthered performance improvement beyond the boundaries of their organization.

“As a recipient of this year’s award, I am grateful to be selected among the men and women who have made a difference in their workplace and community. The 2018 award luncheon highlighted so many wonderfully talented people and organizations that are committed to excellence. I was impressed how they influenced and changed lives of others in so many ways. This award and luncheon reminded me that many of us possess the power to influence, transform and build a compelling future for the people and organizations we diligently serve. “I believe that we should soar, dream, excel, believe and emerge. We soar by looking up, we dream and believe by looking in, we excel by look out and we emerge by helping others.” SWAE embodies that and more!!Lastly, I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many wonderful leaders! The 2018 SWAE Award Banquet was the best!” – **Amanda Goodson**

Additional awards were presented to **Courtney Ophaug** from Banner Health as the Examiner of the Year; **Hillary Conroy**, University of Phoenix as the Rookie Examiner of the Year; **Regan City** of Southwest Diagnostic Imaging, Scottsdale as the Lead Examiner of the Year. “Above & Beyond” awards were presented to **Bill Luhrs**, Executive Scorecard Partners, Phoenix, and **Mary Beth DiGiovanni** from the City of Henderson, NV.

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 Excellence Framework. Our mission is to empower organizations to pursue performance excellence, improve outcomes and contribute to the economic strength of their community and state.

To learn more about the Leadership Award and Performance Excellence Program, please visit our website at [www.swae.org](http://www.swae.org) or call (480) 874-5815.