

ARIZONA INDIAN LIVING TREASURES AWARDS

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Media Release

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ARIZONA INDIAN LIVING TREASURES ANNOUNCED

FLAGSTAFF, AZ – The Arizona Indian Living Treasures Awards (AILTA) is pleased to announce the 2015 recipients, who will be honored for a lifetime of achievement in the areas of traditional arts, education, cultural preservation and language preservation. Additionally, awardees are recognized for their service to their community by sharing their arts and traditions and passing them on to the next generation. The 2015 honorees for the prestigious AILTA awards are:

- **Margaret Acosta, Tohono O’odham, Basket Weaving and Language Preservation**
- **Jose Garcia, Tohono O’odham, Traditional Singing and Language Preservation**
- **Debra Onsa, Hopi, Language and Cultural Preservation**
- **Malinda Powskey, Hualapai, Storyteller and Language Preservation**

The awards program will be held on Sunday November 1, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. in the Steele Auditorium at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ. Board President Daryl Melvin said, "The awardees have accumulated a tremendous amount of knowledge and wisdom over their lifetimes about traditional art forms, indigenous customs, languages and history. They are committed to passing their knowledge on to future generations and provide prospective to how every Arizonian can achieve a fulfilling and purposeful life."

Honorees will be with their families, communities and Tribal leaders when they receive their awards on November 1, 2015, and they will be presented with an embroidered Pendleton blanket to commemorate the day. "It is an honor to recognize the lifetime achievements of these remarkable people. Each of the awardees

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exemplifies AILTA's mission which is to encourage and promote the preservation of cultural traditions and artistic ideals, while providing education and awareness to the public about Indian cultures," Melvin continued.

2015 AILTA Sponsors

2015 Arizona Indian Living Treasures Awards Sponsors include: Ak-Chin Indian Community, Hualapai Tribe, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, and the Arizona Office of Tourism. To learn more about sponsorship or make a contribution to support AILTA's mission, please visit www.ailta.org/sponsorship.

About the Arizona Indian Living Treasure Awards

Arizona Indian Living Treasure Awards is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and was formed in 1988, when it recognized Hopi basket maker, Sarah Gashwytewa, as the first living treasure recipient. To date AILTA has recognized over 100 Arizona Indian Living Treasures.

For more information, the public may contact Daryl Melvin, P.E., AILTA President at info@ailta.org or at 928-380-1807 or visit www.ailta.org.

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