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**VANTAGE WEST IS FIRST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION TO RECEIVE
SHARP AWARD FROM ADOSH**

TUCSON, Ariz. (November 1, 2016) – Vantage West Credit Union (vantagewest.org) recently received the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) award from the Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH), in recognition of its exemplary efforts to ensure the safety of its close to 500 employees.

This affirms the credit union’s designation as a SHARP-certified site, first awarded in 2013, and comes after a successful recertification process with ADOSH early this year.

Vantage West is the only financial institution in Arizona to have received the SHARP award, and is the 25th of among more than 130,000 businesses employing 3 million Arizonans to be recognized by ADOSH. There are currently 31 verified SHARP businesses in the state.

Receiving the honor on behalf of the credit union, Vantage West President and CEO Robert D. Ramirez said, “We are very proud to receive this award. The safety of our employees is of utmost importance. This award is a testament to our commitment to safety first.”

Assistant Director of ADOSH, Jessie Atencio, stated, “It is an absolute honor to partner with Vantage West in their commitment to keeping their employees safe. There is complete buy-in from management and all employees are engaged in guaranteeing safety in the workplace.”

Meanwhile, Industrial Commission Chairman Dale Schultz said, “Vantage West pursuing recertification as a SHARP partner is evidence to the fact that both employers and employees have found value in our partnership over the years. For their efforts, Vantage West will receive three more years of certification without any scheduled inspections, and they have earned it.”

Studies show that companies with a safety program similar to SHARP experience lower workers’ compensation costs and higher employee morale.

Started in 2004, SHARP offers employers the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts in promoting safe and healthful work environments. Employers that have developed, implemented, and work to continuously improve the effectiveness of their workplace safety and health management policies, may be eligible for this important program.

About Vantage West Credit Union

Vantage West Credit Union is a \$1.6-billion financial institution in Arizona, which serves a growing membership of more than 140,000. Vantage West has 17 branches in Pima, Pinal, Maricopa and Cochise counties and serves its vast global membership via online channels, as well. Vantage West is a full-service financial institution, offering consumer and business loans, credit cards, and deposit products, as well as retirement accounts and other financial services. Vantage West is federally insured by NCUA. vantagewest.org

About ADOSH

Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) operates under an approved plan with the U.S. Department of Labor to retain jurisdiction over occupational safety and health issues within Arizona, excluding mining operations, Indian Reservations, and federal employees. This jurisdiction encompasses approximately 2.1 million employees and 144,000 public and private establishments. For more information on ADOSH, Consultation Partnership Programs and the Industrial Commission of Arizona, please visit <http://www.ica.state.az.us/> or call (602) 542-5795.