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**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:**

**SkySong Creates “Outdoor Living Room” Work Environment**

*First-of-its-Kind Public Space Promotes Technology, Collaboration*

*Where Work and Arizona’s Exceptional Climate Mix*

 SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (May 13, 2014) — Sometimes, a little fresh air is all it takes to get the creative ideas and innovation flowing.

 So, as part of efforts to enhance an already exceptional work environment, SkySong, The ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center has created a new “Outdoor Living Room” work environment where employees working at the project can collaborate and conduct business while enjoying Arizona’s weather and scenic beauty.

 The Outdoor Living Room space is the first of its kind in the Valley of the Sun, and includes a combination of stunning furniture and public spaces along with the wifi connectivity and power supply necessary for working in the 21st Century business world.

 And the outdoor spaces will be expanded and enhanced in the coming months to prepare for the opening of SkySong 3 and other new features in the project.

 The Outdoor Living Room includes comfortable chairs from renowned architect and designer Frank Gehry’s collection as well as high-top seating for meetings and collaboration. Hayes Architecture + Interiors is leading the project from a design standpoint, with the goal of creating a truly unique environment for interactive work and brainstorming.

 It’s one of a number of steps being taken at SkySong to enhance the SkySong experience and create more connectivity in the project.

 Sharon Harper, President & CEO of Plaza Companies, the master developer of SkySong, said the Outdoor Living Room spaces are part of the spirit of collaboration that has defined the project from Day 1.

 “We are very proud of the work environment we have created for the companies at SkySong, where they can come together and make the most of technology to grow and enhance their businesses,” she said. “We heard from many people working at SkySong each day that they wanted more opportunities to interact with other professionals in the project, and we thought that creating inviting outdoor amenities was a great way of meeting that need for the companies working there.”

 SkySong has already added food trucks on the fourth Thursday of each month as well as a First Friday trolley service into Old Town Scottsdale. These new additions will culminate with the opening of SkySong 3, scheduled to take place this summer.

SkySong, the ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center is a home to a global business community that links technology, entrepreneurship, innovation, and education to position ASU and Greater Phoenix as global leaders of the knowledge economy.

SkySong is a 42-acre mixed use development designed to:

* Create an ecology of collaboration and innovation among high-profile technology enterprises and related researchers;
* Advance global business objectives of on-site enterprises;
* Raise Arizona’s profile as a global center of innovation through co-location of ASU’s strategic global partners; and
* Create a unique regional economic and social asset.

Companies located at SkySong enjoy a special relationship with Arizona State University, which has more than 73,000 students at four metropolitan Phoenix campuses. Its campus in Tempe is the single largest campus in the U.S., and is located less than three miles from SkySong.

In addition to locating its own innovative research units at the center, ASU provides tenants with direct access to relevant research, educational opportunities and cultural events on its campuses. Through ASU’s on-site operations, tenant companies have a single point of contact for introductions to researchers, faculty and programs to address their specific needs.

 For more information on SkySong, visit [www.skysongcenter.com](http://www.skysongcenter.com) or [www.facebook.com/skysongcenter](http://www.facebook.com/skysongcenter).

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*ABOUT THE SKYSONG TEAM*

Plaza Companies is the developer of the project in partnership with Arizona State University Foundation and the City of Scottsdale. Lee and Associates provides the brokerage services and Plaza del Rio Management Corporation provides the property management and construction services.   Architects at SkySong include Pei Cobb Fried and Partners, DMJM Design, Butler Design Group and Kendle Design Collaborative.

With offices in Peoria, Scottsdale and Tucson, Plaza Companies is a full-service real estate firm specializing in the management, leasing and development of medical office and commercial office properties, technology and bioscience facilities, mixed-use properties and senior housing communities. Since 1982, Plaza Companies has established a proud track record as a competitive, connected and conscientious real estate firm with partnerships throughout the industries it serves. For more information, visit [www.theplazaco.com](http://www.theplazaco.com).

*ABOUT THE ASU FOUNDATION*

***ASU Foundation*** *is an independent non-profit organization that acts as the principal agent through which gifts are made to benefit the Arizona State University. The mission of the ASU Foundation is to solicit, manage and disburse the proceeds of gifts made to ASU.* [*www.asufoundation.org*](http://www.asufoundation.org)*.*

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