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*Dee Southerland of Williams & Stuart Real Estate*

**Rhode Island Housing names Dee Southerland as Realtor of the Quarter**  
*Realtor recognized for 3rd time for her work helping first-time homebuyers*

**Cranston, RI** (June 30, 2014) – Dee Southerland of Williams & Stuart Real Estate has been recognized with Rhode Island Housing’s Realtor of the Quarter award for the first quarter of 2014. This is the third time Southerland has received the award honoring her partnership with the Rhode Island Housing Loan Center.

“Dee has long been an enthusiastic partner and we are proud to once again be celebrating her efforts to connect her clients with Rhode Island Housing’s Loan Center,” said Peter Walsh, Director of Homeownership and Customer Service for Rhode Island Housing. “She has been a strong advocate for Rhode Island Housing with her clients and peers, helping us to promote the many options we have available for first-time homebuyers such as closing cost and down payment assistance. We are fortunate to have her as our partner and pleased to be honoring her once again for her continued efforts.”

“I am so happy to have been named Realtor of the Quarter for a third time,” said Southerland. “I recommend the Rhode Island Housing Loan Center to my clients and colleagues because I know that they will do everything they can to find the right loan for each buyer quickly, providing personalized assistance at every step along the way.”

Rhode Island Housing, the state’s principal housing agency, has helped more than 60,000 Rhode Islanders buy a home. The agency offers loans for first-time homebuyers, current homeowners and those looking to improve their home. A key element in re-establishing the overall health of the housing sector is helping first-time homebuyers regain confidence and better understand the opportunities and responsibilities of homeownership.

“A robust homebuying market helps to improve our overall economy – not only by supporting the real estate industry, but also by bringing more investment to communities, and helping to further boost lender confidence,” said Richard Godfrey, Executive Director of Rhode Island Housing. “Knowing that realtors are most often the first contact for homebuyers, it’s important to have realtors like Dee who are educated and committed to meeting the needs of first-time buyers.”

Southerland has been in real estate for a decade and brings the same enthusiasm today as when she first started. “I feel blessed to be able to share the experience of transitioning people from one place in life to another, both literally and figuratively,” said Southerland. “Rhode Island Housing is a key piece to making sure that transition is as easy as possible.”

### **About Rhode Island Housing**

Together with its partners, Rhode Island Housing works to ensure that all people who live and work in Rhode Island can afford a healthy, attractive home that meets their needs. Rhode Island Housing uses all of its resources to provide low-interest loans, grants, education and assistance to help Rhode Islanders find, rent, buy, build and keep a good home. Created by the General Assembly in 1973, Rhode Island Housing is a privately funded public purpose corporation.

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