Mesa, AZ
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PRESS CLIPPINGS

Foundation offers $1M to study dropout rates
Halle family wants
focus on keeping
Hispanics in school

By BLAKE HERZOG
TRIBUNE

The founders of Discount
Tire are chipping in more than
$1 million toward a five-year
drive to get a handle on Arizo-
na's high-school dropout rate,
the second-worst in the nation
according to the U.S. Depart-
ment of Education.

The Bruce T. Halle Family
Foundation has committed the
money to the Center for Arizo-
na's Future's dropout initia-
tive, which will pay particular
attention to Hispanic youths.
Paradise Valley resident

Diane Halle, president of the
foundation and Bruce Halle's
wife, said there are many rea-
sons for the family's interest in
boosting Hispanic graduation
rates, including the ethnic
group's sheer numbers that
are expected to brihg it out of
minority status in a few
decades.

"They're going to be the
major part of our population,"
she said.
The Halle foundation will
contribute $200,000 a year
during the next five years to
the center, founded last year
by Lattie Coor after he retired
as Arizona State University's
president.
The center's game plan
starts with figuring out the
scope of the problem.
As a policy paper released

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handle on Arizona's

high-school dropout rate.

last month by ASU's Educa-
tion Policy Studies Laboratory
points out, the federal govern-
ment and other states use a
variety of methods to come up
with a dropout rate.
Part-time executive direc-
tor Sybil Francis said her
work with a group of about 20
local leaders to define drop-
ping out should wrap up in a
couple of months.
Coor said the center will
develop strategies to attack

the problem. "When there's
work to be done, we'll find out
if there's a lead entity that's
doing it and if not, we'll pitch
in," he said.
The Halles are putting in
another $150,000 for a one-
year study by the ASU-based
Morrison Institute as part of
the larger push.
This study will follow the
model of a recent best-selling
book, "Good to Great," said
the Morrison Institute's Mary
Jo Waits.

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