



**Dr. Lattie F. Coor**  
Chairman and CEO



**Dr. Sybil Francis**  
Executive Director

Led by Dr. Lattie Coor, a **bilingual community forum** on Beat the Odds in the Creighton District attracted more than 150 parents, teachers, staff and school principals representing 19 schools and several school districts.

As a member of the Governor's P-20 Council, Dr. Sybil Francis chairs the Data, Assessment and Graduation Committee. As a result of her efforts, two core center goals have been adopted by the P-20 Council and forwarded to the governor—**mandatory school attendance until age 18** and **increasing the state's high school graduation rate by 12 percentage points by 2012**.

■ Work continues to create a **Beat the Odds Institute** to support long-term dissemination and implementation of the findings of the center's research report "Why Some Schools with Latino Children Beat the Odds ... and Others Don't." An advisory committee has been formed that met in December with members of the top one percent of Arizona K-12 school principals to plan the center's first Beat the Odds Leadership Seminar, which will be held at the end of the 2006-07 academic year.

■ In January, **245 PBS television stations** featured the center's "Beat the Odds" study and one of its 12 high performing schools, the Alice Byrne Elementary School in Yuma, in a television documentary about Jim Collins and his best-selling management book "Good to Great."

■ Under a grant from the **Arizona Board of Regents**, the center has hired Robert Luster to develop and manage a new Web site being launched to support the Beat the Odds Institute and its future activities. Robert was previously manager of electronic communications for the ASU Foundation.

■ A new center study, "Everybody's Problem: A Closer Look at Arizona's High School Graduation Rate," finds that **below average graduation rates characterize all Arizona ethnic groups**, including the majority white population. A comparison of Arizona and Texas—which share similar demographics and a border location—shows that Texas consistently outperforms Arizona. (See bar graph below.) A full report is available on the center's Web site or by calling 480-727-5005.

**2003-04 Graduation Rate for Texas and Arizona by Ethnic Group**

