



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



**Dr. Sybil Francis**  
Executive Director

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**August:** Phase one of the center's new **Beat the Odds website will be launched for field testing with Arizona educators**

The website is designed to support school leaders who are committed to achieving designation as a "Beat the Odds" school, which requires achieving performance criteria that will be developed by the Center for the Future of Arizona in consultation with schools participating in the BTO Partners program. The website is funded through a grant from the Arizona Board of Regents.

■ **In June twenty-six K-12 school principals participated in Beat the Odds Leadership Seminars**—the first of their kind. The two-day seminars provided a rare and valuable opportunity for principals to discuss with their colleagues the challenges they face as they work to improve their schools. They also developed a deeper understanding of how to apply the Good to Great and Beat the Odds concepts to education.

**The Center for the Future of Arizona will partner with interested schools in a year-long effort** to assist principals in implementing Beat the Odds at the school level. Funding for the development of the Beat the Odds Leadership Seminars was provided by the **Arizona Community Foundation (Sybil B. Harrington Trust)**.



Phoenix Principals Mary Kay Radavich of Peralta Elementary School and Steven LaFemina of Tertulia Charter School participated with their colleagues in the first Beat the Odds Leadership Seminar.

■ In a **keynote address to the Arizona Business and Education Coalition (ABEC)** on June 19, Dr. Lattie Coor identified two great challenges for Arizona in the 21st century. First, the state's student performance standards must align with global standards. Second, we must find ways to create a "highly competitive, next generation middle class" for Arizona as baby boomers leave the workforce. The full text of the speech is available at [www.arizonafuture.org](http://www.arizonafuture.org).

■ The National Center for Education Statistics' annual report (<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/>) finds that the **number of minority high school students taking college-level Advanced Placement (AP) tests soared between 1997 and 2005**—up 213% for Hispanic students and 177% for Black students. The number of White students taking the test increased 105%.