



Dr. Lattie F. Coor
Chairman and CEO



Dr. Sybil Francis
Executive Director

RECENT EVENTS

November 13: Arizona Education Policy Fellowship Program Meeting

Dr. Lattie Coor spoke to members of the Arizona Education Policy Fellowship Program at Arizona State University about the Beat the Odds education initiative.

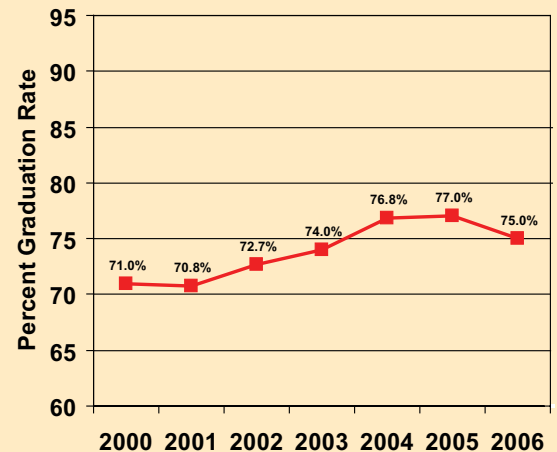
November 27: National Conference of State Legislatures

A group of legislators participating in the conference met with Dr. Coor for a Beat the Odds presentation and discussion.

■ **Recently released Arizona Department of Education figures for 2006 show Arizona high school graduation rates have fallen to 75 percent following four years of steadily rising graduation rates.** Previously, Arizona was on track to achieve its 2012 statewide graduation goal of 86 percent.

Under the leadership of the Center for the Future of Arizona, education, business and community leaders established the goal in 2005, which would increase the statewide graduation rate from 74 percent in 2003 to 86 percent by 2012. It is part of a larger effort to put Arizona among the top educational states in the nation by 2020. Currently Arizona's high school graduation rate and its student achievement scores are widely viewed as unacceptably low.

Arizona High School Graduation Rates
Source: Arizona Department of Education



■ **Center Executive Director Dr. Sybil Francis has been appointed to serve on the Arizona Skill Standards Commission.** The commission will oversee development of industry-validated certification or documentation of student skill attainment in 71 specific career fields. The effort is a joint project of the Arizona Department of Education and Arizona State University.

■ **Arizona must set its student achievement standards to national and global standards if its future workforce is to be truly competitive.** Currently state academic standards do not require students to meet national standards (the National Assessment of Educational Progress or NAEP, widely considered the nation's report card), much less world standards. Intel Corporation Chairman Dr. Craig Barrett and Center for the Future of Arizona Chairman/CEO Dr. Lattie Coor provide a compelling argument in an opinion piece available at www.arizonafuture.org.