



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



**Dr. Sybil Francis**  
Executive Director

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **February 15: Yuma County School Professional Development Day**

Dr. Lattie Coor will address approximately 2,000 teachers, administrators and school board members.

#### **February 20: Beat the Odds School Partners Meeting**

Work session for BTO School Partner principals focusing on high stakes testing.

■ The Center for the Future of Arizona is pleased to announce that **Dr. Marjorie Kaplan has been named the Director of its newly created Beat the Odds Institute.** Dr. Kaplan's duties include developing and managing the Beat the Odds Institute programs, operations and community relationships.

Upon her retirement July 1, 2008 as superintendent of schools for the Shawnee Mission School District in metropolitan Kansas City, she will assume the position of Beat the Odds Director full-time. In the interim, Dr. Kaplan will advise the Institute on key matters.

Shawnee Mission has been awarded a gold medal rating by *Expansion Management* magazine for 16 consecutive years, despite demographic and budget challenges faced by the district. The designation places the district among the top four percent of school districts nationally.

Funding for the Director's position has been made available by the **Stardust Foundation.**

Prior to moving to Kansas City in 1992, Dr. Kaplan was superintendent of the Paradise Valley School District and the principal of Sunset School, a K-8 school in the Washington School District.

During her tenure in the metropolitan Phoenix area, she was named one of the Top 100 Educators in the United States by *Executive Educator* magazine. Dr. Kaplan also received the Arizona Superintendent of the Year award from the American Association of School Administrators, and the Outstanding Arizona Superintendent Award from the Arizona School Administrators Association.

■ **The Center for the Future of Arizona has released a video which examines how schools can use Beat the Odds as a framework to improve student achievement.** Noted television personality Hugh Downs hosts the newsmagazine-format presentation, which can be viewed online at [www.beattheoddsinstitute.org/video](http://www.beattheoddsinstitute.org/video).



Dr. Marjorie Kaplan