



Dr. Lattie F. Coor
Chairman and CEO



Dr. Sybil Francis
Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6: ABEC Crash Course: Teacher Recruitment and Retention, Alternative Pathways, and Teacher Training

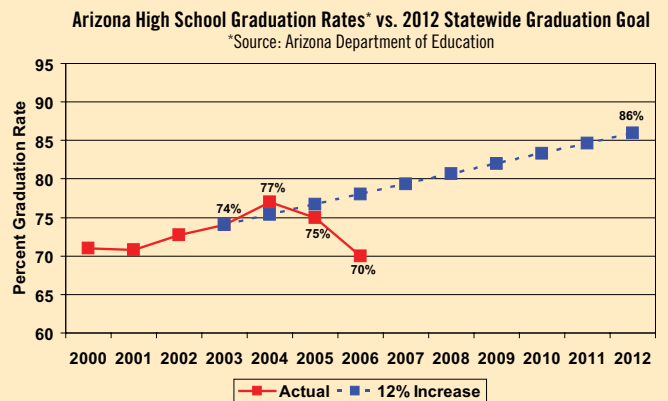
Dr. Sybil Francis will participate in a panel discussion of teacher issues and education data needs. The meeting is a follow-up to the 92nd Arizona Town Hall, entitled "Who Will Teach Our Children?"

May 7: Beat the Odds School Partners Meeting

Recap and celebration of the schools' 2007-2008 accomplishments.

■ **Arizona's high school graduation rate dropped from 77 percent in 2004 to 70 percent in 2006.** The drop affects all students and cannot be attributed to any specific ethnic group. The center is looking into the causes of the decrease in graduation rates.

Until recently, Arizona was on track to achieve its 2012 statewide graduation goal of 86 percent. This goal was established in 2005 under the leadership of the Center for the Future of Arizona in collaboration with education, business and community leaders. The graduation goal has been endorsed by the Governor's P-20 Council.



*ADE 2005 and 2006 graduation rates have been updated. Replaces data reported in December 2007 newsletter.

■ **Excelencia Elementary School (Phoenix) has scored well-above the state average in a survey of teacher working conditions.** Principal Damon Twist credits the school's ability to create a true collaborative environment. Twist shares his thoughts on collaboration in an interview at www.beattheoddsinstitute.org.

■ **H.B. 2787, which calls for the addition of a teacher identification tracking function to Arizona's state education data system, passed the House and is under consideration by the Senate** at press time. A commentary by Dr. Sybil Francis, center executive director, appeared in the April 18 issue of the *Arizona Capitol Times*. It is available online at www.arizonafuture.org.

■ **U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings will take steps to ensure that all states use the same formula to calculate high school graduation rates.** The National Governors Association is seeking to have its formula, which is in the process of being implemented by all 50 states, adopted by the U.S. Department of Education. It is the same formula that Arizona has used since the 2001 cohort.