



Dr. Lattie F. Coor
Chairman and CEO



Dr. Sybil Francis
Executive Director

“What is so cool about Beat the Odds is that our workshops were built to suit. They were all about what we needed to learn and what we wanted to learn. I left every single one with something new. I got to go back and make something happen.”

—School principal commenting on her first year as a Beat the Odds School Partner

■ **Center leaders met with Gallup Poll executives and Arizona community leaders in June to discuss adapting the Gallup World Poll to a statewide citizens' poll as the next step in advancing the Vision for the Future of Arizona.** The group is exploring whether the proposed, first-of-its-kind poll would provide the information needed to create a working agenda for Arizona's future. For more information about the state vision, visit www.arizonafuture.org.

■ **A review of data used to calculate Arizona's high school graduation rates indicates that the 2006 figure of 70 percent is the most reliable benchmark figure of the past decade from which future improvements or setbacks of the state graduation rates should be measured.** Graduation of the first student cohort to be tracked over four years by the state accountability information system (SAIS), the K-12 state educational data system administered by the Arizona Department of Education, resulted in a recent, dramatic correction to the statewide graduation rate.

■ **The Beat the Odds Institute will launch a new, district-level program during the 2008-09 school year as a means to extend the Beat the Odds framework for student success into new schools.** A total of five schools within the Tolleson Unified High School District and 12 schools within the Tempe Elementary School District will participate in the pilot program. Orientation for the Tempe district will take place July 28.

■ **A recent U.S. Census Bureau report ranks Arizona second or third from the bottom in per-student spending dating to 2000.** In 2006, the state spent \$6,472 per student, which is \$2,666 less than the national average.

