



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



**Dr. Sybil Francis**  
Executive Director

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **March 25: BTO School Partners Program Meeting**

Training and work session focused on working with parents.

#### **March 27: BTO Parents as Partners Meeting**

Training session for school liaisons engaged in increasing parental involvement in schools with low-income, predominantly minority student populations. This meeting will focus on providing parents with practical knowledge about learning skills.

■ **When Cordova Middle School (Alhambra Elementary School District) established reading proficiency goals that everyone in the school could understand and support, it discovered the power of having a clear bottom line for student**



**achievement.** At the end of the second quarter, 475 students were reading at or above grade level, up from 322 students at the end of the first quarter — an increase of 153 students. The school is one of 59 metro Phoenix-area schools participating in the center's Beat the Odds School Partners Program. For more information, visit [www.beattheoddsinstitute.org](http://www.beattheoddsinstitute.org).

■ **Executive Director Sybil Francis has been named to the Arizona Business & Education Coalition (ABEC) Funding Model Committee.** The committee is studying the state financing model for K-12 education and will make recommendations to better facilitate and integrate K-12 and postsecondary studies. One of the objectives of the panel is to remove financial obstacles to obtaining the knowledge and skills that students need to be successful in the 21st century workplace.

■ **Work continues on the Gallup Arizona Poll, which explores citizen priorities across five critical Arizona issues: education, health care, job creation, infrastructure and energy independence.** The goal is to learn more about what Arizona residents value in their communities, what they want for the future and what policies they are willing to support with their tax dollars to achieve what they believe are the state's most important goals.

In addition to statewide results, Gallup will provide key findings for three geographic regions, including the urban corridor, smaller Arizona cities and the state's rural communities. The comprehensive public opinion poll is part of the Center for the Future of Arizona's "The Arizona We Want" initiative. Survey results are scheduled for release in early May. For more information, visit [www.arizonafuture.org](http://www.arizonafuture.org).