



Dr. Lattie F. Coor
Chairman and CEO



Dr. Sybil Francis
Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 9 (Tucson) and
September 23 (Phoenix):**

Beat the Odds School Partners Meeting

School principals will meet for training and a work session focusing on ongoing assessment and student data.

**September 22: Salt River Pima-
Maricopa Indian Community
Beat the Odds Training**

Educators from three schools will participate in leadership training focusing on team and relationship building.

**November 13: Developing Human
Capital Conference (Scottsdale)**

Marc Tucker, president of the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) and vice chairman and staff director of Tough Choices or Tough Times, will discuss the TCTT reform movement and the ramifications for Arizona postsecondary education.

■ **The Accio Education Fund has announced it will award \$450,000 over three years to expand the Beat the Odds School Partners Program in Arizona.** The “venture capital” type of charitable fund was created by Arizona Community Foundation and Helios Education Foundation to support the development and expansion of innovative education reform efforts that benefit Arizona students.

■ **The Pathways to Postsecondary Success model is enjoying support from the Walton Family Foundation, which has awarded a \$250,000 grant to Phoenix University Public School, an affiliate of Arizona State University.** The grant will support the start-up of the K-8 charter school, which opened in August in downtown Phoenix, and the development of pathways curriculum at the secondary level as the school grows to serve K-12 students. The Center for the Future of Arizona partnered with the public charter school and ASU in writing the grant as part of its Pathways to Postsecondary Success Initiative.

■ **The “Beat the Odds” research study proved the wisdom of sticking with a good program, making it better and better, rather than seeking a silver bullet to improve student achievement.** Peralta Elementary School in Phoenix discovered this principle for itself recently, after three years of fine tuning its efforts. The school increased its AZ LEARNS designation by two levels in the most recent school year—from underperforming to performing plus. Learn more at www.beattheoddsinstitute.org.



Mary Kay Radavich (left), principal of Peralta Elementary School, working with her 3rd grade collaborative team.

■ **The Beat the Odds website has been updated and expanded to include 13 state, national and international research reports.** This includes a recent report by President Obama's Council of Economic Advisors that calls for the creation of high-school “career pathways” programs that develop skills that lead to specific jobs. It also argues for additional programs that allow students to earn college credit while still in high school. To access these education-related studies, visit “Other Research Reports” in the research section of www.beattheoddsinstitute.org.