



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



**Dr. Sybil Francis**  
Executive Director

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 10: Beat the Odds School  
Partners Meeting (Tucson)**

Training and work session regarding the strong and steady principal.

**March 24: Beat the Odds School  
Partners Meeting (Phoenix)**

Training and work session regarding collaboration and teacher leadership teams.

**March 30: Beat the Odds Training  
(Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian  
Community)**

Topic is the role of parent involvement in academic achievement.

■ **The Center for the Future of Arizona has received a \$300,000 grant from Helios Education Foundation to fund its Pathways to Postsecondary Success Initiative.** According to Center Executive Director Sybil Francis, the goal of the effort is to create seamless pathways between high school and postsecondary education for all students to better ensure college and career readiness and success. The center is leading three pathways initiatives and engaged in three additional pathways-related endeavors. This is the second Helios grant that the center has received in support of its pathways projects.

■ **Arizona's application for federal Race to the Top dollars included language supportive of the move-on-when-ready concept supported by internationally benchmarked board examinations.** This innovative concept would allow students to advance based on mastery of academic standards and, when ready, move on to college-level coursework without remediation. Student mastery would be advanced, supported and demonstrated through board examination systems. These are complete instructional programs aligned with internationally benchmarked standards and supported by syllabi, instructional materials, high quality examinations, professional scoring and teacher training. States selected to receive Race to the Top funding will be announced in April.

■ **More than 4,500 Arizonans have completed the Gallup Arizona poll online at [www.TheArizonaWeWant.org](http://www.TheArizonaWeWant.org).** *The Arizona We Want* Gallup research released last October found a broad consensus regarding how Arizonans view the communities in which they live and what they want for Arizona's future. Organizations of 25 or more employees, members or customers can take the online poll and receive a report that benchmarks the group's responses with statewide citizen responses. For details, contact the Center for the Future of Arizona at (602) 496-1360.

■ **Principal Marco Ruiz of J.B. Sutton Elementary School (Isaac School District #5) is known as "the data czar" for his school's effective use of data and ongoing assessment to increase student achievement.** Sutton is one of 84 Arizona schools participating in the Beat the Odds School Partners Program. Learn how Sutton School is succeeding at [www.BeatTheOddsInstitute.org](http://www.BeatTheOddsInstitute.org).

■ **The Move On When Ready bill (HB 2731) was heard by the House Education Committee on February 15, and passed by a unanimous vote of those present.** The bill would allow Arizona high school students to graduate by age 16 by choosing a more challenging academic path. High school sophomores who pass rigorous college and career readiness exams would be able to enroll in community college courses, move to a full-time technical school or enroll in a college preparatory program at their high school. The bill was introduced by House Education Committee Chairman Rich Crandall.