



### Advancing Arizona through a Web-based Initiative Use of FY 2010 Funds

The Center for the Future of Arizona was created to improve the quality of life for all Arizonans. The Center is committed to turning ideas into action—helping to shape and define Arizona’s future through an action-oriented agenda focused on issues and topics critical to the state. More than a think tank, the center is an independent “do tank” that combines public-policy research with collaborative partnerships and initiatives that serve the public interest and the common good.

From its inception in 2002, the Center has focused on a limited set of issues that were determined to have the greatest impact on Arizona’s future, drawing on existing studies and research, augmenting them where necessary, then developing an action agenda with measurable results, engaging civic and political leaders in the process to begin to take the next steps in creating our future. The vision for the future of Arizona that emerged from this deliberative process is to create an Arizona in which there are opportunities—especially education and employment opportunities—and a high quality of life for all citizens, now and for years to come.

To help realize this vision, the Center has undertaken three major projects designed to advance Arizona’s capacity to compete successfully in the future. Central to these efforts is the capacity to develop and expand highly functional and financially sustainable websites that have the capacity to strategically disseminate these ideas, encourage discussion and support thoughtful action and implementation that has been supported by the Arizona Board of Regents Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF) Regents Innovation Fund.

The three major initiatives are:

#### I. The Beat the Odds Institute –

- The Beat the Odds project (described and summarized in a companion report) is an example of the Center’s “do tank” role and has been an early indicator of its intention to use electronic communication tools for collaborative, thoughtful action to improve Arizona’s competitiveness.
- Based on the landmark Arizona study, “Why Some Schools with Latino Children Beat the Odds. . .and Others Don’t,” and designed to improve “achievement per student” in low-income, Latino-intensive schools, the Institute is demonstrating clearly that “demography is not destiny,” that all children can learn, and that our schools can be transformed to meet the human and social needs of the 21st century. Eighty-five K-12 schools in Maricopa County, metro Tucson and Whiteriver will partner with the Beat the Odds Institute in FY 2010—an increase of 26 schools from the previous school year.



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



**Dr. Sybil Francis**  
Executive Director

### TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH INITIATIVE FUND (TRIF)

#### CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Center Initiatives.....	1
Financial Information.....	4
Anticipated Results.....	4
Managment .....	5
Advisory Board of Directors.....	5
Learn More.....	5

- A key to the success of Beat the Odds is the online resource center—the sophisticated, highly interactive website funded by the TRIF Regents Innovation Fund. The website has been a key component in engaging BTO partner schools and key stakeholders in improving student achievement and will figure even more prominently in the future as we develop expansion models to take Beat the Odds into schools throughout the state and the nation.

## II. Tough Choices or Tough Times Initiative and Pathways to Postsecondary Success –

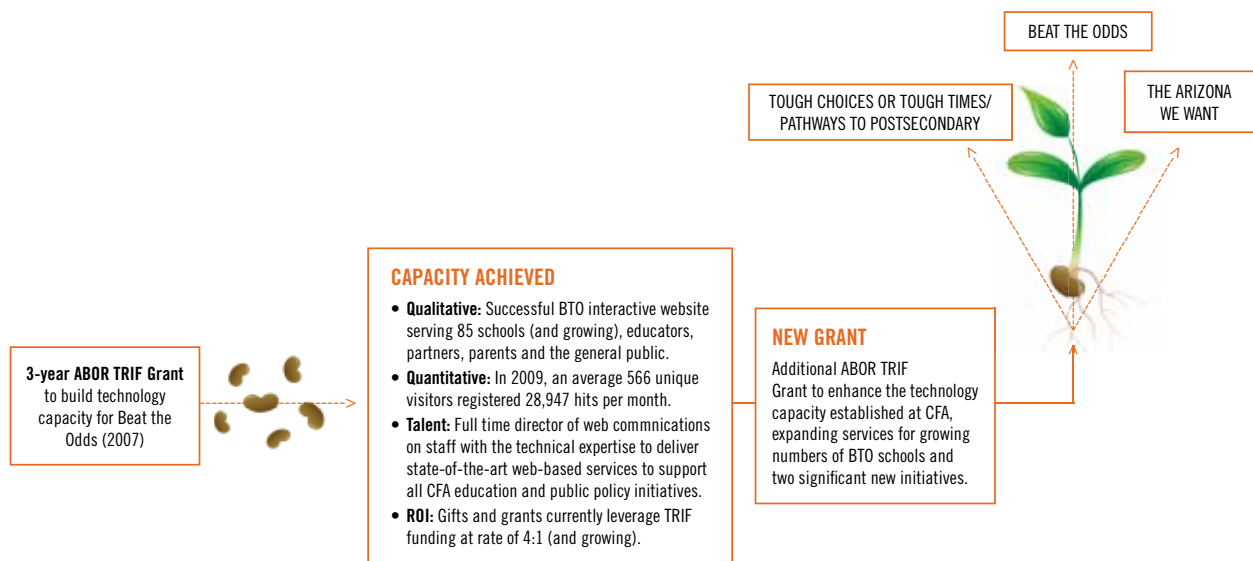
- The Center has assumed the education sector leadership for Arizona as part of a six state national consortium committed to significantly improving student achievement through a dramatic overhaul of state education systems. Based on the reform agenda of the December 2006 report, "Tough Choices or Tough Times," from the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, the consortium is challenging educators and policymakers to rethink the boundaries between pre K-12 and all forms of postsecondary education. The primary goal of the reform agenda is to prepare 95 percent of American students for college without remediation by the time they leave high school, meeting the highest international standards as they do so. In partnership with the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona Education Association and the National Center on Education and the Economy, CFA is leading the planning process to develop an Arizona plan for the Tough Choices or Tough Times initiative. Social media and other web tools will not only permit individuals and organizations to join in this important reform initiative, but will also enable Arizona to become a force in the national reform movement.
- In June, Amanda Burke joined the Center for the Future of Arizona as Director of Education Innovation and Director of the Arizona "Tough Choices or Tough Times" Initiative. Previously, Burke was Director of Education Innovation and Policy with the Arizona State University Office of University Initiatives in the Office of the President.
- Pathways to Postsecondary Success is a major project focused on increasing student success and graduation rates through system-wide changes in public education and emphasizing the creation of seamless pathways between high school and postsecondary education for all students based on their interests and skills. The project concept is derived from "Tough Choices or Tough Times." Success for this project is tied to the kind of broad-based and widespread dialogue and involvement made possible through electronic networks such as the one developed to support the BTO Institute.

## III. The Gallup Arizona Poll: The Arizona We Want

- "The Arizona We Want" initiative is designed to build a citizen's agenda for Arizona – a shared vision for our future that is compelling enough to mobilize people statewide and to survive transitions in leadership over time – and is informed by the results of the recent Gallup Arizona Poll.
- The Gallup Arizona Poll created an opportunity to understand who we are today, what's distinctive about the way we think and what we share with others. Building on Gallup research, the poll will quantify the level of citizen engagement in Arizona and look at the relationship between engagement and prosperity in our state. Based on citizen perspectives expressed through the Poll, the Center will create a framework for action that includes specific actions and measureable goals, as well as opportunities for further information, thought and discussion.

- A successful citizen's agenda must be grounded in innovative research that capitalizes on advances in the field of behavioral economics; the Gallup Organization has provided that for the Gallup Arizona Poll. Success also requires a cutting edge capacity in information technology that can a) disseminate research data and ongoing information to citizens throughout the state, b) link a wide array of strategic partners in all sectors and encourage discussions in real time, and c) support broad-based social networking that provides Arizona citizens with opportunities to directly participate in planning discussions on issues of public importance. TRIF funds are helping provide that capacity.

The graphic below depicts how these initiatives build on the success of the initial TRIF grant and how we will enhance technology capacity to accomplish the goals of the grant.



The TRIF Regents Innovation Fund is enabling the Center to staff and enhance the development of technically advanced, state of the art websites with bilingual features supporting the delivery and reform of education programs and services throughout the state and beyond, and connecting citizens and policy makers in constructing and implementing a citizen's agenda for The Arizona We Want. The ABOR/TRIF funded websites are supported by a network of staff, consultants and partners and provide opportunities for students interested in civic leadership and public policy to learn to use technology for social change.

Taken together these efforts create a window of opportunity for Arizona to play a leadership role in addressing the great challenges of our time. The capacity funded through TRIF is designed to provide the technical infrastructure needed for the level of collaboration and thoughtful action that is required to move Arizona forward.

## Financial Information

### Resources and Planned Expenditures

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012*
<b>REVENUE</b>			
TRIF Revenue	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>
<b>OPERATING BUDGET</b>			
Personal Services	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Outside Vendors	\$72,000	\$72,000	\$72,000
Equipment Fees	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>

\* Contingent upon approval of funding by the Arizona Board of Regents.

## Anticipated Results

This critical time in our state's history creates the opportunity for Arizonans to come together—both citizens and leaders—to create the future we want and need. These projects – planning, building and maintaining sustainable, world class electronic networks to support education reform and a sustainable future—are intended to create the technical infrastructure needed to provide all stakeholders—citizens, policy makers, business and civic leaders—with the electronic communication tools they need for collaborative, thoughtful action.

Core to moving these initiatives forward is the capacity the Center has developed via the ABOR funding for using advanced information technology in ways that give “voice” to the people of Arizona and empower them as thoughtful and involved citizens. We strongly believe that the combination of citizen support and committed leadership will result in a compelling agenda for Arizona.

Together, we believe these three major projects of the Center will enable Arizona to align our educational system, resources and sense of purpose with the aspirations of our citizens for sustainable prosperity. Central to the success of this effort is the continued development and expansion of our highly interactive websites that are designed to offer the same level of sophisticated functionality and customer service that drive all global enterprise today.

In combination, these initiatives and the websites that support them are vital to the challenge of advancing Arizona and transforming our state into one of the best places in the nation to live, raise a family and prosper.

## Management

### Center for the Future of Arizona

Lattie F. Coor, Ph.D.

*Chairman & CEO*

Sybil Francis, Ph.D.

*Executive Director*

Marjorie A. Kaplan, Ph.D.

*Beat the Odds Institute Director*

## Learn More

### Center for the Future of Arizona

541 East Van Buren

Suite B-5

Phoenix, AZ 85004

602-496-1360

<http://www.ArizonaFuture.org>

<http://www.BeatTheOddsInstitute.org>

## Advisory Board of Directors

Lattie F. Coor, Ph.D.

*Chairman and CEO, Center for the Future of Arizona*

Nadine Mathis Basha

George Dean

*President and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Urban League*

Paul J. Luna

*President and CEO of Helios Foundation*

Jack Pfister