



Tom Horne Reports to Educators

Volume IV, Issue III April 2007

A Message from the Superintendent

In This Issue

Page 1

A Message from the
Superintendent

Page 2

ABEC Annual
Conference
Governor's Youth
Commission

Page 3

Pat Tillman Community
Leadership Awards
RandomKid.org Contest
Arizona Diamondback
Tickets

Page 4

National Juried Exhibition
for Young Artists With
Disabilities
Free Salad

1. Changes to Full-tuition Scholarships for Students Who Excel on AIMS.

The full-tuition scholarship for students who excel on all three AIMS tests, and meet certain other academic requirements, has been successful beyond anyone's anticipation. It has motivated students to study harder, to excel on the AIMS tests and obtain the scholarship. Even more, it has motivated parents to get their students to do so. The resulting increase in the number of students excelling on the AIMS tests has meant that the program costs the universities about \$1 million more than expected. On the other hand, the universities benefit because they receive students that are better able to do university work.

Despite the unexpected increase in costs, the Board of Regents renewed the program. I expressed gratitude to the other members of the Board of Regents, and hope that others will do so if opportunities arise.

One problem with the program was that it required a B or better in every core academic subject, and this caused some students to avoid the more demanding courses, for fear of receiving a C. We have a number of initiatives to do the opposite: encourage students to take a more rigorous program, and increase participation in Advance Placement, Honors, etc.

At our request, the Board of Regents made a change. If a student receives a C, it can be overcome by a passing score on an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate test in that subject.

2. Blasting Away at No Child Left Behind.

I delivered a speech at the Heritage Foundation, in Washington, D.C., attacking the irrationalities of No Child Left Behind, and its implementation by the U.S. Department of Education, especially the unfair treatment of Arizona regarding English Language Learners. The Heritage Foundation is one of the principal conservative think tanks in Washington.

To view the speech, [CLICK HERE](#):

Sincerely,

Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction

**"Dare to Lead-Creating Conditions for Leadership"
ABEC Annual Conference, June 18-19
Orange Tree Resort, Scottsdale**

The Arizona Business & Education Coalition (ABEC) will challenge educators and business leaders to take the lead in education reform at ABEC's annual conference June 18-19 at the Orange Tree Golf Resort in Scottsdale.

Topics will include:

Business:

- Success, challenges and opportunities for business involvement in education

Research:

- Connecting leadership to student achievement- MCREL (Mid-Continent Research on Education and Learning) study proving leadership makes a difference in student achievement
- Principles of leadership, *Beat the Odds* study

Education:

- Community consensus building and leadership
- Arizona Academic Scholars Initiative-a model which allows both large and small businesses in any size community to partner with their local school districts and assist in assuring that students are prepared for post-secondary education and the 21st century workforce.

Speakers:

Tom Horne, Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction

Arthur Ryan, Chairman & CEO, Prudential Financial

Dr. Hector Montengro, Superintendent, Ysleta Independent School District, El Paso, TX

Dr. Lattie Coor, Chairman and CEO of the Center for the Future of Arizona and former president of Arizona State University

For ABEC conference registration details, please call 602-438-3176 or visit www.azbec.org.

The Governor's Youth Commission Seeks New Members!!!

The Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) advises the Governor and the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families on issues affecting youth in Arizona. Their mission is to promote healthier communities through youth volunteerism and service learning, increased awareness of community issues, and civic participation.

The GYC is a diverse and representative body of Arizona's high school population and is composed of 40 members from throughout the state. Each year, the members work together on a special project that impacts youth across Arizona.

The Governor's Youth Commission is currently accepting applications from high school students who will be sophomores or juniors during the 2007-2008 school year. Please note the GYC is seeking applicants that represent the diverse and unique nature of Arizona's counties.

You are welcome to visit our website at: www.volunteerarizona.org for more information or to download the application. Applications must be RECEIVED by Monday, May 15, 2007 at 3pm.

If you have any questions regarding the Governor's Youth Commission or the application process, please contact Huma Haroon at 602-542-3422, or by email at hharoon@az.gov.

Pat Tillman
Community
Leadership
Awards 2007



Sports 620 KTAR and The Leadership Consortium (TLC) are now accepting applications for the "Pat Tillman Community Leadership Awards 2007"

The Pat Tillman Community Leadership Award is named in honor of Pat Tillman, the ASU alumnus and Arizona Cardinals football player who was tragically killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan. Part of the proceeds of the luncheon will be donated to Pat Tillman Foundation and TLC scholarships. The following are the criteria for the awards:

INDIVIDUAL (is a professional, amateur or student athlete or someone who works in a professional, non-profit or academic sports-related organization or industry):

- * Has put service to others above personal gain
- * Has demonstrated courage of his/her convictions
- * Serves as a excellent role model for youth
- * Is committed to equal opportunity for all regardless of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender or sexual orientation.

ORGANIZATION (a professional or amateur sports organization, retail sports industry organization or non-profit youth organization)

- * Has actively promoted partnerships among sports professionals or organizations and the community
- * Has provided mentorship for youth
- * Has encouraged student athletes to stay in school, become financially literate or pursue healthy lifestyles
- * Is committed to equal opportunity for all regardless of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender or sexual orientation.

For more information, and to download nomination form, [CLICK HERE](#).

RandomKid.org Contest for K-12
Students
Schools and States in Solidarity

Last year, schools across the country were invited to report about what students were doing to help the survivors of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Together, thousands of schools and millions of students rose over \$10 Million dollars in one year for hurricane relief and rebuilding charities!

As we approach the 2nd anniversary of Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2007, many schools are not yet back in session, so we're launching a contest NOW to raise awareness of the continuing need in the gulf (90,000 people still live trailers).

The contest webpage is interactive and REALLY FUN. K-12 students can create a design linking house-shaped key chains and virtually place them as an accessory on their governor. The winning student has the possibility of meeting with their state's governor.

For more details, please visit www.randomkid.org/gulf.html.

Arizona Diamondback Tickets

Mayor Phil Gordon and the Arizona Diamondbacks have arranged for school children to attend Arizona Diamondback games this season free of charge through the Sedona Red Cap Program. Blocks of tickets are available for most games through this program. Schools are responsible for providing the transportation and chaperones. The process is simple: Make your request to the Youth and Education Office at youth@phoenix.gov for the specific game and the number of tickets with the name of the school or youth organization. (Please be sure to request enough tickets to include chaperones. Specify the number of bus passes needed.

To view the game schedule go to www.arizonadiamondbacks.com. For more information, call 602-495-0314 or email us youth@phoenix.gov.

These tickets are not to be redistributed or sold.

VSA arts and Volkswagen Announces National Juried Exhibition for Young Artists With Disabilities



Deadline: July 6, 2007

VSA arts (www.vsarts.org) and Volkswagen of America, Inc. (www.vw.com) have announced a call for Driven, a national juried exhibition for young artists with disabilities.

The competition is open to young artists between the ages of 16 and 25 living in the United States who have a physical, cognitive, or mental disability. A disability is defined as an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

The entered artwork must be an original work that has been completed in the last three years. Eligible media include paintings and drawings (oil, watercolor, acrylic, pencil, or charcoal), fine art prints (lithographs, etching, intaglio, or woodcuts), photography, computer-generated prints, and two-dimensional mixed media.

The program will present a Grand Prize of \$20,000; a First Award of \$10,000; a Second Award of \$6,000; and twelve Awards of Excellence of \$2,000 each.

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the VSA arts Web site for complete program information and entry instructions.

For additional RFPs in Arts and Culture, [CLICK HERE](#).

Upcoming Events...

2007 AZ LEARNS/NCLB
Accountability Workshops

A+ School Lunch Workshop

Mathematics and Science
Partnership Grant
Application Workshop

0708 NCLB (No Child Left
Behind) Consolidated
Application Training

[Click Here](#) to view all events



In Recognition of

**Teacher
Appreciation
Day**

Arizona McDonald's
Owner/Operators are inviting
teachers to enjoy their
Southwest Salad.

Beginning in May,
school districts
will be distributing
coupons to all
Arizona teachers
for a free
McDonald's
Southwest Salad.



**Southwest
salad**

Coupon valid through June 30, 2007