



## **Arizona Issues Forum - Powering Up Young Brains**

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

6-8 p.m.

Burton Barr Central Library  
1221 N. Central Ave., Phoenix

Welcome

Dr. Rufus Glasper, Chancellor, Maricopa Community Colleges

Overview of the Topic

Nadine Basha, State Board of Education and School Readiness Board

Young Brains and Public Policy

Dr. Janet Johnson, Rio Salado College and co-founder New Directions Institute

Voluntary All Day Kindergarten

Becky Hill, Governor's Office, Education Policy

Why Business is Involved

Ken Burdick, United Healthcare

The Bottom Line of Not Acting

John Whiteman, Empire Foundation

Arizona Issues is a community partnership of the Maricopa Community College's Center for Civic Participation, which seeks to convene the public for thoughtful discussion of important policy issues. This forum is co-sponsored by the Arizona Business & Education Coalition, School Readiness Board, the City of Phoenix Youth and Education office, Greater Phoenix Leadership, Make A Difference and others.

**NADINE BASHA**

Nadine Mathis Basha was a founder and President of Summa Associates, a consulting and management firm specializing in corporate child care and elder care services, from 1986 to 1999. Ms. Mathis Basha is currently the President of the Arizona State Board of Education. She is also the appointed chair of the newly established Arizona State School Readiness Board. She serves on the Board of Directors of WesEd, an educational research and development organization, as well as the Arizona Business and Education Coalition (ABEC).

**JANET JOHNSON**

Dr. Johnson is a former public school teacher with a Ph.D. in "Learning and Instructional Technology" from Arizona State University. She conducts research on how the brain processes information. She is the co-founder of New Directions Institute for Infant Brain development which is a non-profit organization focused on infant brain development and how it impacts learning in later life. She previously held a faculty position at Grand Canyon University and currently serves as the Chair of Education at Rio Salado College.

**BECKY HILL**

Becky Hill is a graduate of Arizona State University. While at ASU, Ms. Hill served as legislative intern at the Arizona House of Representatives for two years. After four years with the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, Ms. Hill served as Superintendent Jaime Molera's Director of State and Congressional Affairs at the Arizona Department of Education. Ms. Hill joined Governor Napolitano's administration in January 2003 and now serves as the Governor's Education Policy Advisor.

**KENNETH A. BURDICK**

Ken Burdick assumed his current UnitedHealthcare position of President, Public Sector in January 2004. Mr. Burdick has twenty-four years of experience in the health care field and in 2000 assumed the position of Chief Executive Officer of UnitedHealthcare of Arizona. He is a member of the Greater Phoenix Leadership Board of Directors, serving as Chair of the Leadership Education Committee - P-20, and also serves on the School Readiness Board.

**JOHN O. WHITEMAN**

John O. Whiteman joined Empire Southwest in 1963. Empire Southwest Co. is the Caterpillar dealer for Arizona, southeastern California, and part of Mexico and consistently ranks as one of the top 10 of Privately Owned businesses in Arizona. He retired as Chairman and CEO in January 2003, and currently is the Chairman of the Whiteman Foundation, a philanthropic organization focused on the health, education and welfare of children. He was a founder of Mesa United Way's Ready to Learn Committee and is a member of the School Readiness Board.