



*March 2015*

## **Glendale Union High School District WHS gets Gold, named a 'Beat the Odds' school**

A North Central high school with a minority-intensive, low-income student population received a gold award and has been named "Beat the Odds Schools" by Beat the Odds Institute, an initiative of the Center for the Future of Arizona.

A Gold Award went to Washington High School, as well as former Principal Carol Lippert and current Principal Tami Strege.

Only schools that attain gold-medal status—the highest level of achievement in the Beat the Odds program—are conferred the title of a Beat the Odds School.

Based upon methodology from best-selling author Jim Collins, Beat the Odds is a rigorous, multi-year school improvement program providing mentoring and training for principals. It focuses on K-12 schools where at least 50 percent of the students are on free or reduced lunch and at least 50 percent are minority, primarily Latino. A total of six schools earned Gold, eight schools earned Silver and 12 earned Bronze awards.

Marjorie Kaplan, executive director of Beat the Odds Institute, said, "Our award winners demonstrate that demography is not destiny. They have overcome obstacles and improved academic performance through their commitment to our Six Keys to Success."

Based upon research, the six keys are a strong and steady principal, a clear bottom line, ongoing assessment, collaborative solutions, a program built on individual student needs and a commitment to stick with the program.

"Successful schools do things differently and don't make excuses," Kaplan said.

Additional information is available at [www.BeatTheOddsInstitute.org](http://www.BeatTheOddsInstitute.org).

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