



**Arizona Business & Education Coalition**  
**Annual Conference**

*Excerpt from the day's agenda.*

**Morning Panel:**

**What is the role of assessments? Are Arizona's assessments providing a continuous culture of achievement for both students and educators?**

**Panelists:**

**John Arnold**, *Executive Director, Arizona Board of Regents*

**Carole Basile**, *Dean, Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Arizona State University*

**Tim Carter**, *Superintendent, Yavapai County Education Service Agency, and former President, State Board of Education*

**David S. Clukey**, *Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), U.S. Army Special Forces and former U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Commander.*

**Joe Thomas**, *President, Arizona Education Association.*

**Moderator:** James K. Zaharis, *Executive Vice President, Arizona Business & Education Coalition (ABEC).*

Tim Carter: Tim, from the perspective of a County Superintendent and former State Board of Education member, where are we now and what is next for statewide assessments in Arizona?

John Arnold: John, what is the role and function of statewide assessments in determining entry and placement in Higher Education? What has worked, what has not, and what changes would you like to see? What is the best predictor of College Success?

Joe Thomas: Joe, teachers are the root of the assessment process, but they aren't the only accountability. What tools do teachers need in terms of input, training or other opportunities to ensure that Arizona's student assessment process is fair, accountable and beneficial to academic growth for every student?

Carole Basile: Carole, should statewide assessments be part of teacher accountability and compensation. Why or why not? What is the role of assessments in teaching improvements?

David Clukey: Dave/Lt. Col. Clukey, what kind of assessments does the military use and for what purpose? What can we learn from military assessments and what should public education avoid, and what should public education do? What parts do the variables of mastery and time play in military assessments?

**"lightning round" (or rapid fire) questions. (optional)**

Do we put too much emphasis on student assessment in Arizona, just the right amount of emphasis, or too little emphasis and why?



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*Continuation of lightening round.*

If there is one thing we are getting very right about assessment testing in Arizona, what is that?

If there was one thing you would point out for consideration for improving the Arizona assessment process, what would that be?

The concept of continuous student achievement and learning is highly desirable, as is reducing student achievement gaps and improving student academic outcomes grade in and grade out. What role can assessment testing play in these highly desired outcomes?

Teachers have a widely acknowledged and challenging responsibility to prepare Arizona's youth for academic success. Are Arizona's assessments giving them the correct feedback to improve their craft, curriculum usage, student achievement gains, and deal with student equity issues now widely known to exist in nearly every Arizona school district?