

## Keynote Speaker

**Tony Zeiss, President, Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, NC**



Dr. Zeiss holds a doctorate in community college administration, a master's degree in speech (radio and television) and a bachelor's degree in speech education. In 1992, Zeiss became the third president of Central Piedmont Community College, the largest college in North Carolina serving approximately 70,000 students per year.

During his tenure, the college has grown from one campus to six and has become recognized as a national leader in Workforce Development. Zeiss has authored or co-authored several books on economic development, adult literacy and national workforce development. His most recent publications include four books on creating high performance employees, a novel based on the War Between the States, and a book on Community College Leadership.

Dr. Zeiss is a professional speaker and a member of the National Speaker's Association. He is a frequent keynoter for companies and colleges on recruiting, developing, and retaining peak performers at the workplace. He regularly consults with states and regions on Economic Development.

Zeiss is past chair of the Board of the American Association of Community Colleges and past Board Chair for the League for Innovation, and was the Association of Community College Trustees' National CEO of the year for 2004-2005. CPCC was selected as the 2002 Community College of the Year by the National Alliance of Business in 2002-2003.

Dr. Zeiss serves on several local, regional and national boards and frequently serves as a workgroup member for the U. S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor. Zeiss and his wife Beth have two sons and two grandchildren.

## Academic All-Star Speakers

**Linda Beene, Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education**



Dr. Linda Beene, has the distinction of having been appointed twice to the Governor's Cabinet. As director, she coordinates academic programs and accountability for Arkansas' 33 public colleges and universities, guides state and federal funding efforts including annual operating fund recommendations of more than \$839 million, 24,000 positions, \$300 million capital recommendations, and administration of \$55 million in state scholarships. Dr. Beene has devoted her life and career to the improvement and growth of education.

**Mike Beebe**

**Democratic Nominee  
for Governor of Arkansas**

As a state senator and attorney general, Mike Beebe has worked for more than 20 years to represent the people of Arkansas. Beebe was born in Amagon, Arkansas (Jackson County) in 1946. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Arkansas State University in 1968 and a law degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1972, all the while serving his country in the U.S. Army Reserves. Elected to the Arkansas Senate in 1982, Beebe worked for 20 years to achieve fiscal conservatism, to reach across party lines, and to solve problems. In a career that demonstrates a commitment to good government, he repeatedly stresses integrity and accountability. Beebe is currently the 51st Attorney General for the State of Arkansas. As chief law-enforcement officer, Beebe's responsibility is to represent the people of the state and to be the guardian of their interests. He and his staff are committed to safeguarding consumers, protecting seniors from abuse and neglect, and developing solutions to problems ranging from upholding criminal convictions to protecting children from predators on the Internet.



**Asa Hutchinson**

**Republican Nominee  
for Governor of Arkansas**

Asa Hutchinson, a native of Gravette, Arkansas, has served the State as a Member of Congress and as a United States Attorney. After serving his country during the last four years as head of the DEA and the nation's first-ever Undersecretary of Homeland Security, Asa has returned home to Arkansas to run for Governor. Before his election to Congress in 1996, Asa practiced law in Arkansas for 21 years in Fort Smith and Northwest Arkansas. In Congress, Asa served on the Judiciary, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs committees, where he worked to secure federal funding for Arkansas highways, secure health facilities for veterans in rural counties, and help lead the fight against violent traffickers of methamphetamines. Asa was elected three times to Congress before President George Bush asked him to lead the nation's fight against illegal drugs as head of the DEA. As Undersecretary of Homeland Security, Asa coordinated the nation's border and transportation security efforts. During his tenure, Asa led high-profile campaigns against human trafficking rings, weapons and drug smugglers, and illegal immigration.

