



## **PANDA 2010 Honoree**

Nadine Mathis Basha

Nadine Mathis Basha developed a ballot initiative, known as Proposition 203, to generate funds to establish a comprehensive system of early childhood development and health. In November 2006 voters approved Proposition 203 ensuring that for the first time in Arizona substantial funds would be available to address the chronic and serious challenges that Arizona's youngest residents face in their first five years of life.

In addition, she was appointed to chair the founding board of First Things First (known formally as the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board) for the first two years and continues to serve as a member of the board. More importantly, it is through Nadine's efforts and energy that the vision of seeing every Arizona child enter kindergarten safe, healthy and ready to succeed will be fulfilled.

A former teacher, Nadine has spent her adult life advocating for Arizona's children, particularly with regard to early childhood education within the state. She has served on numerous boards and committees in conjunction with state and community agencies, the Governor's Office and Arizona State University. In 1989, she founded the Children's Action Alliance, a children's public policy advocacy group that has significantly influenced the policies that enhance educational and medical needs for families with considerable financial constraints.

Nadine also founded Summa Associates, a management firm specializing in corporate child care and elder care services, and she worked with a number of Arizona corporations in Maricopa County to provide better services for children and care for elderly employees of corporations. Her endeavors in the field of early childhood have been acknowledged by the countless awards she has received during her outstanding career.

She currently serves on the Board of the Ellis Center for Educational Excellence and is also a Trustee for the Committee for Economic Development.

Nadine Mathis Basha was presented with an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from the University of Arizona in December 2009. She also holds an honorary degree of Doctor of Education from Northern Arizona University as well as Arizona State University's Distinguished Achievement Award. She received a B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Kansas and a M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from Arizona State University.