



As we celebrate Glendale's Centennial, I want to focus on one of Glendale's most historically significant institutions. The Thunderbird School of Global Management, located at the intersection of 59th Avenue and Greenway Road, is highly acclaimed as the number one international business school in the entire world. The story of how Thunderbird came to be is an extraordinary one that is significant to the military, education and business history of the City of Glendale, the State of Arizona, the United States of America, and even to other parts of the world.

Thunderbird Field 1 was constructed in 1941 to train American, British, Canadian and Chinese pilots during WWII. By 1945, the war had ended and Thunderbird Field 1 was deactivated. In 1946, it became the American Institute of Foreign Trade, with the help of visionaries who had the foresight to envision the global marketplace that is now common in business and commerce. Over the years this school would grow into the prestigious Thunderbird Global School of Management.

Thunderbird Field 1 was designed to look, from above, like a Thunderbird, the Native American God of Thunder. The air control tower was the head of the Thunderbird figure. In later years the tower building became a central hub of activity for the campus. It has housed administration and faculty offices, a language learning center, a student lounge, the Tower Cafe, and offices for Thunderbird institutions such as the Thunderbird Student Government and the school newspaper. In 2006, the tower had to be closed due to structural damage.

Thunderbird students have led a grassroots campaign to restore the tower to its former glory. Thunderbird has raised over \$2 million from alumni and friends and approximately \$400,000 is still needed. When I attended a groundbreaking ceremony for this project last November, I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to share the school's story with our residents and give all of you the opportunity to participate in the project. It was at this time that I committed to conducting a Community Outreach and Fundraising Campaign to help raise funds for this important piece of Glendale's history.

I invite you to share in the efforts to restore the Historic Thunderbird Tower. All donations, regardless of amount, are welcome and will be greatly appreciated. Everyone who makes a donation will have their name recognized on a donor wall inside the newly restored tower. Additional naming and recognition opportunities are available based on level of donation. [\(Click Here\)](#) for a donation form, which includes all of the details about making a contribution for the Thunderbird tower through the Glendale Office of the Mayor. Please include this donation form with your contribution so we can record your name the way that

you would like it displayed at the tower.

[\(Click Here\)](#) to learn more about the Community Outreach and Fundraising Campaign for the Historic Thunderbird Tower Renovation.

Thank you taking the time to read my "Glendale Bulletins". Please contact me at (623) 930-2260 or mayorscruggs@glendaleaz.com, if you have any comments or questions. I strive to provide the most timely information and best possible service to you, the citizens of Glendale. I sincerely appreciate your feedback.