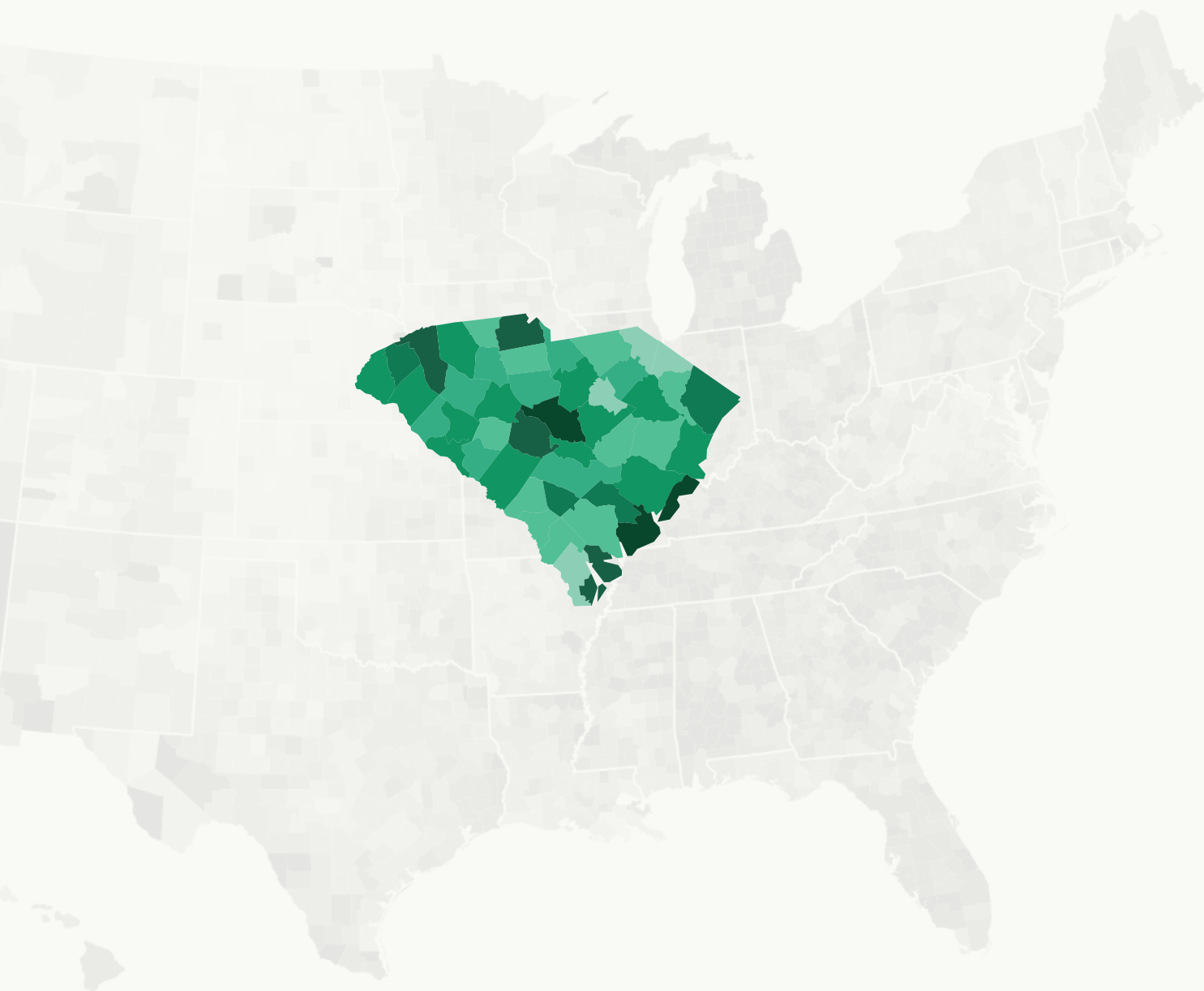


A STRONGER **SOUTH CAROLINA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



Efforts to boost college attainment in South Carolina are key to achieving Goal 2025

In South Carolina, 34.2 percent of the state's 2.5 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. South Carolina's attainment rate is falling slightly; last year, the rate was 34.8 percent. South Carolina's rate of higher education attainment is also well below the national average. This year, the percentage of Americans between age 25 and 64 who hold a two- or four-year degree is 38.7 percent. This rate is rising, but only slowly. In 2010, the rate was 38.3 percent; in 2009, it was 38.1.

Still, there is some reason for optimism about the educational trends in South Carolina. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In South Carolina, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 34.9 percent, a bit higher than that of the adult population as a whole, yet still well below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Clearly, South Carolina has a long way to go. In the state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, 40.5 percent of South Carolina's adult population — 982,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 2,422,423, South Carolina will need to add more than 472,000 degrees to that total.

By now, most people understand why increasing attainment is so important — both to themselves and their communities. Experts from the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University say that, by 2018, 349,000 of the expected 630,000 job vacancies in South Carolina will require postsecondary

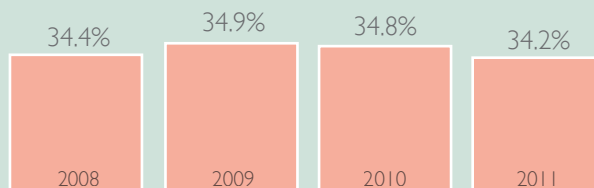
credentials. Indeed, 56 percent of all South Carolina jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

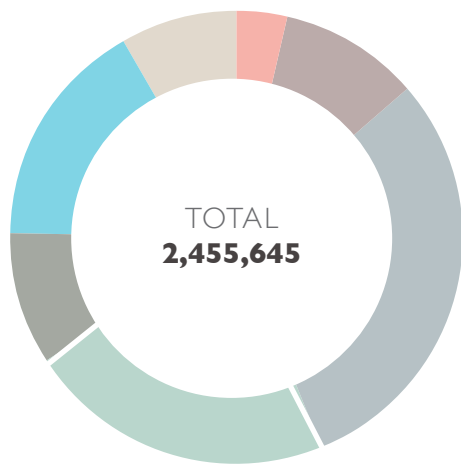
Clearly, the state's economic future depends on producing more college graduates — and an excellent place to begin is with those who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2011, nearly 540,000 South Carolina adults — 22 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but lacked either a two- or four-year degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way toward helping South Carolina reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each South Carolina county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so assuring that all communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential. South Carolina must also increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing proportion of the state's population, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students, and students of color. Meeting the educational needs of these 21st century students will help build South Carolina's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree





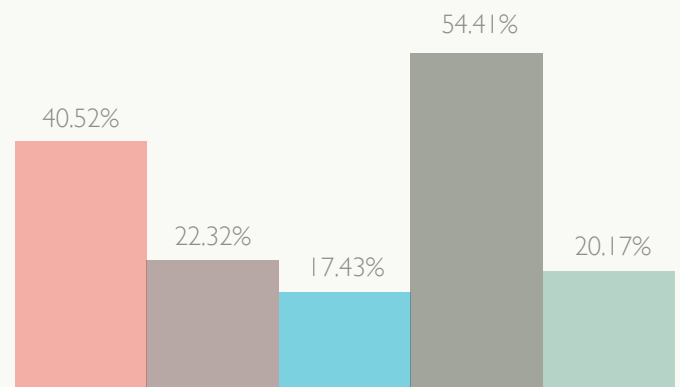
Levels of education for South Carolina adults (ages 25-64)

Less than ninth grade	94,460	3.85%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	234,855	9.56%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	747,501	30.44%
Some college, no degree	539,714	21.98%
Associate degree	231,829	9.44%
Bachelor's degree	404,636	16.48%
Graduate or professional degree	202,650	8.25%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey

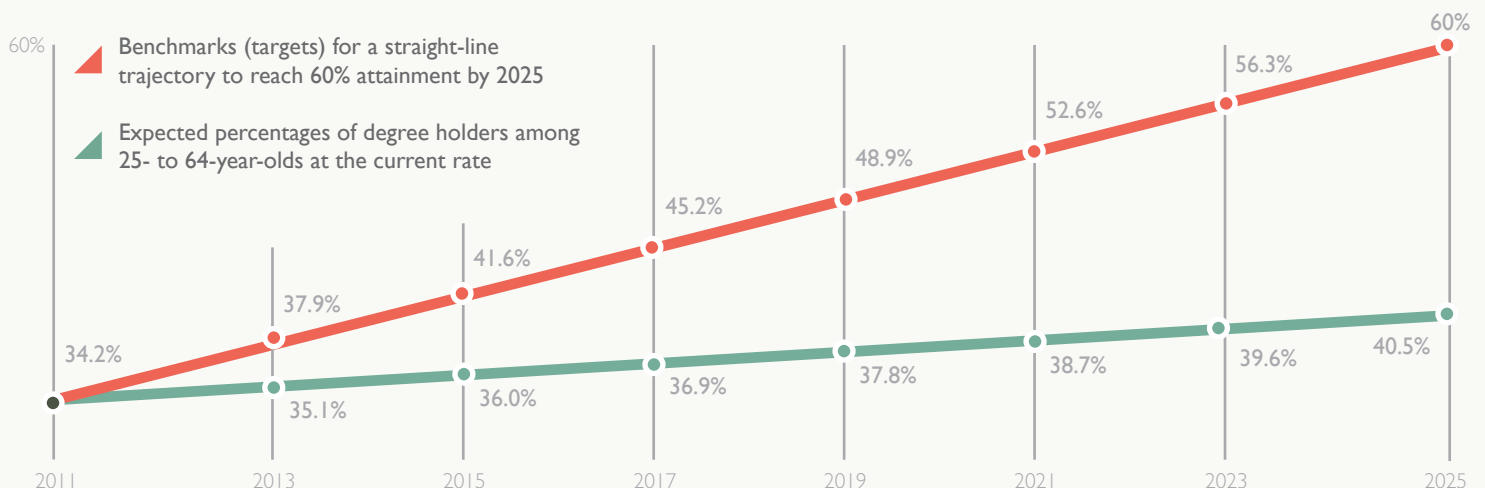
Degree-attainment rates among South Carolina adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	40.52%
Black	22.32%
Hispanic	17.43%
Asian	54.41%
Native American	20.17%



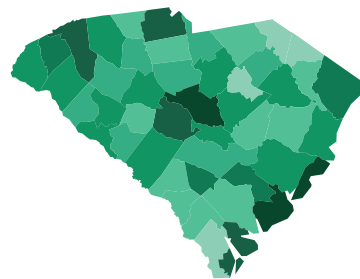
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in South Carolina



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010 & 2011 American Community Survey

Percentage of South Carolina adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, by county



Abbeville	26.03	Calhoun	31.39	Dillon	15.72	Hampton	18.68	McCormick	27.79	Saluda	21.45
Aiken	32.63	Charleston	47.75	Dorchester	36.92	Horry	33.37	Marion	20.51	Spartanburg	32.55
Allendale	18.68	Cherokee	20.56	Edgefield	25.73	Jasper	15.74	Marlboro	12.93	Sumter	28.82
Anderson	30.09	Chester	19.89	Fairfield	25.73	Kershaw	28.29	Newberry	30.54	Union	22.65
Bamberg	35.93	Chesterfield	20.69	Florence	31.43	Lancaster	27.65	Oconee	32.21	Williamsburg	18.79
Barnwell	21.19	Clarendon	21.56	Georgetown	30.13	Laurens	23.92	Orangeburg	25.73	York	39.99
Beaufort	42.18	Colleton	21.08	Greenville	40.93	Lee	16.03	Pickens	34.28		
Berkeley	29.77	Darlington	24.58	Greenwood	32.72	Lexington	38.92	Richland	46.60		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-11 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates