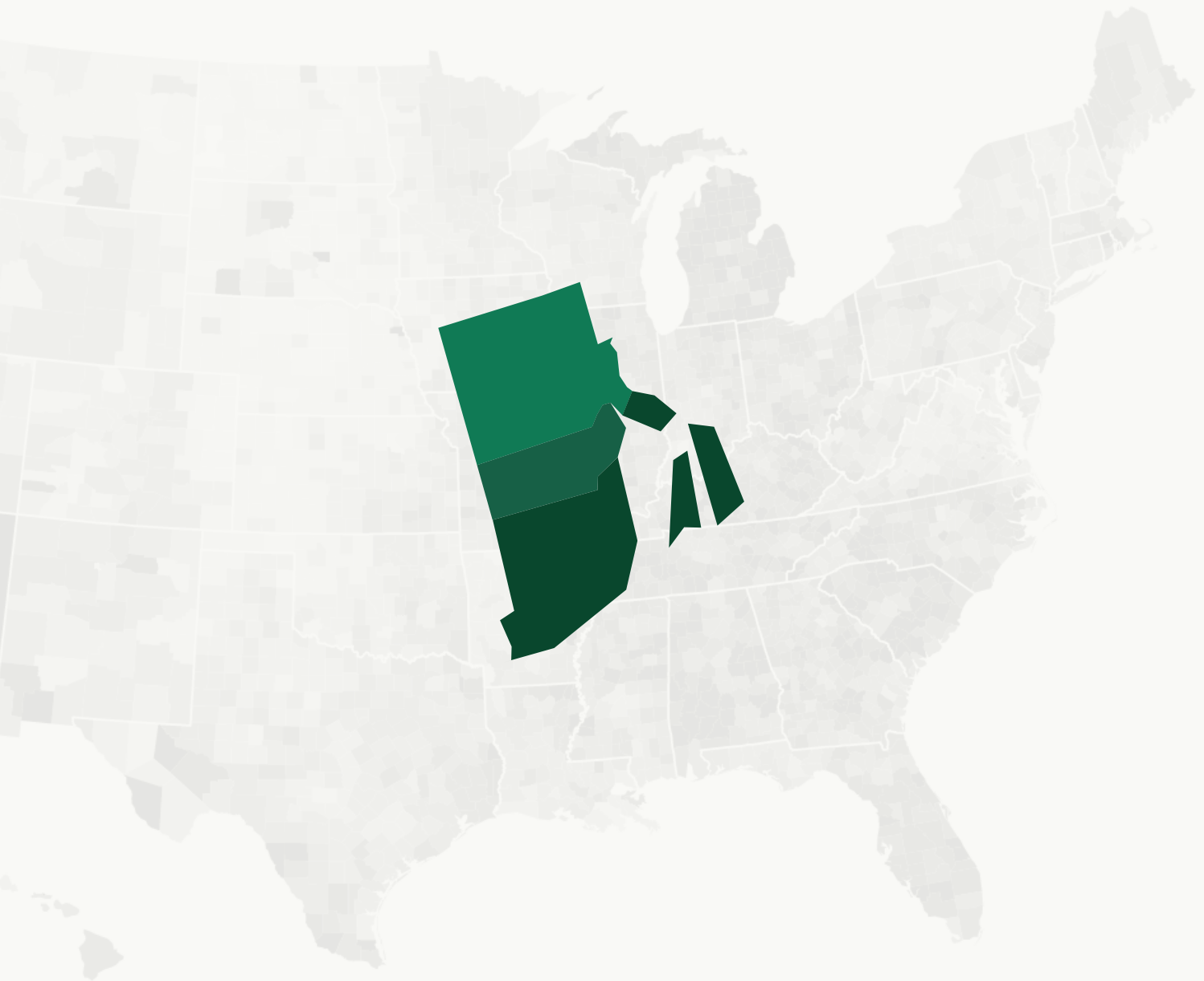


A STRONGER **RHODE ISLAND** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



Efforts to boost college attainment in Rhode Island are key to achieving Goal 2025

In Rhode Island, 43.2 percent of the state's 559,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Rhode Island's attainment rate is increasing; last year, the rate was 41.2 percent. Rhode Island's rate of higher education attainment is also above 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.

However, there is reason for concern about the educational trends in Rhode Island. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Rhode Island, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 42.9 percent — lower than that of the adult population as a whole, though higher than the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Clearly, there is room for improvement in Rhode Island. In this state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase rapidly and steadily to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 51 percent of Rhode Island's adult population — 292,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 577,001, Rhode Island will need to add more than 54,000 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, 93,000 of the expected

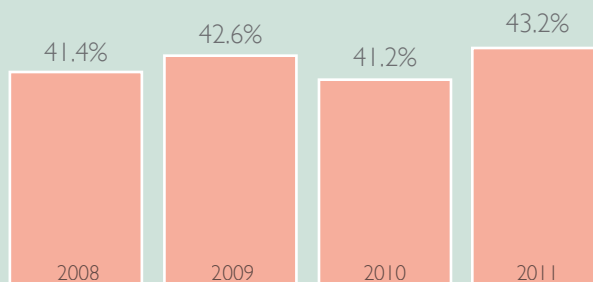
153,000 job vacancies in Rhode Island will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 61 percent of all Rhode Island jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 113,000 Rhode Island adults — 20.2 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 Rhode Island reach the 60 percent goal.

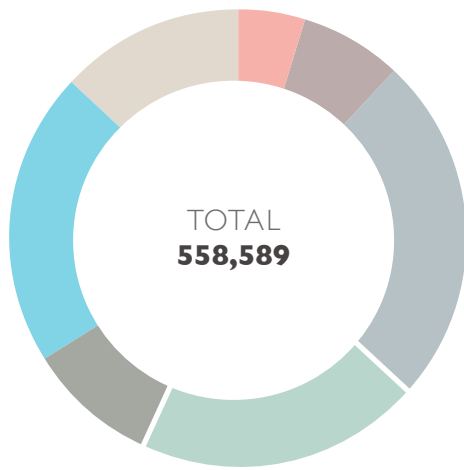
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Rhode Island county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so assuring that all communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential. Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island adults (ages 25-64)

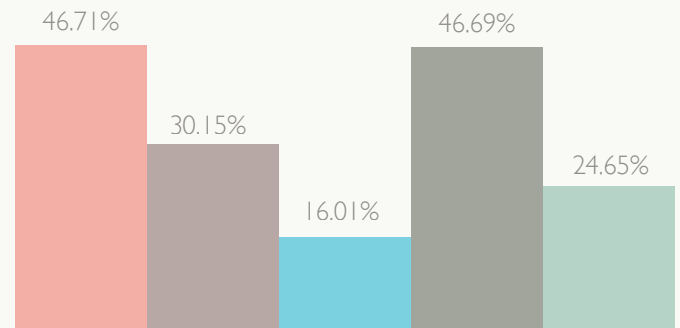


Less than ninth grade	27,877	4.99%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	39,501	7.07%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	137,558	24.63%
Some college, no degree	112,567	20.15%
Associate degree	52,237	9.35%
Bachelor's degree	116,607	20.88%
Graduate or professional degree	72,242	12.93%

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

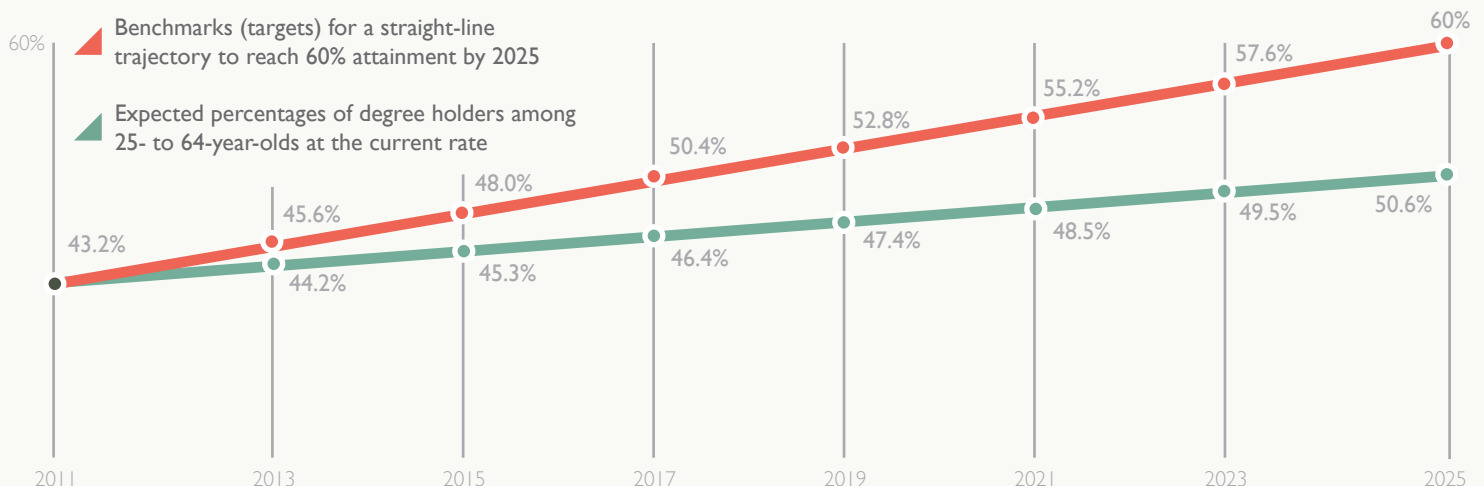
Degree-attainment rates among Rhode Island adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	46.71%
Black	30.15%
Hispanic	16.01%
Asian	46.69%
Native American	24.65%



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

The path to 60% degree attainment in Rhode Island



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

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



Bristol	54.68	Kent	43.04	Newport	56.36	Providence	36.84	Washington	54.51
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-11 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Lumina Foundation is an independent, private foundation committed to increasing the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees, certificates and other credentials to 60 percent by 2025. Lumina's outcomes-based approach focuses on helping to design and build an accessible, responsive and accountable higher education system while fostering a national sense of urgency for action to achieve Goal 2025.

