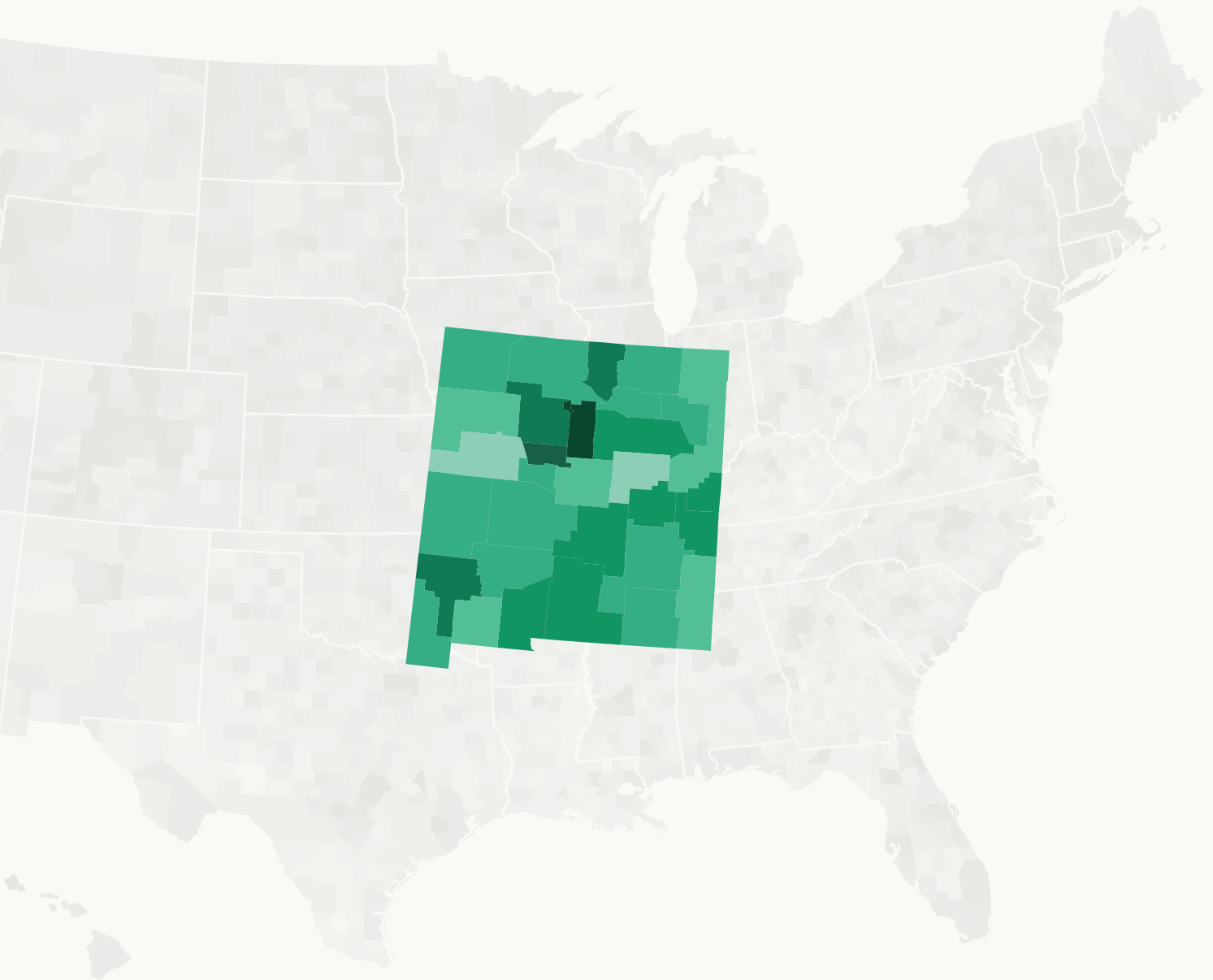


A STRONGER **NEW MEXICO** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



Efforts to boost college attainment in New Mexico are key to achieving Goal 2025

In New Mexico, 33.9 percent of the state's 1.1 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. New Mexico's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was 33.1 percent. Also, New Mexico's rate of higher education attainment is 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.

There is also reason for concern about the educational trends in New Mexico. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In New Mexico, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at just 30.4 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole. What's more, New Mexico's attainment rate among young adults is well below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

New Mexico clearly has a long way to go. 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 37 percent of New Mexico's adult population — 362,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 970,371, New Mexico will need to add more than 220,000 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, 166,000 of the expected

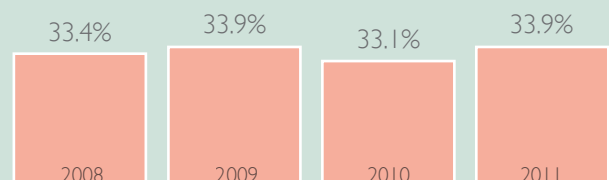
292,000 job vacancies in New Mexico will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 58 percent of all New Mexico jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 262,000 New Mexico adults — 24.4 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 New Mexico reach the 60 percent goal.

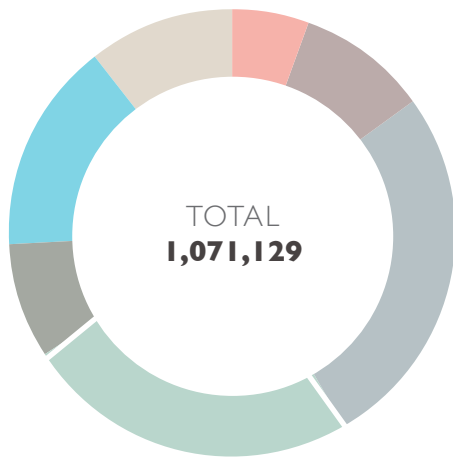
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each New Mexico county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

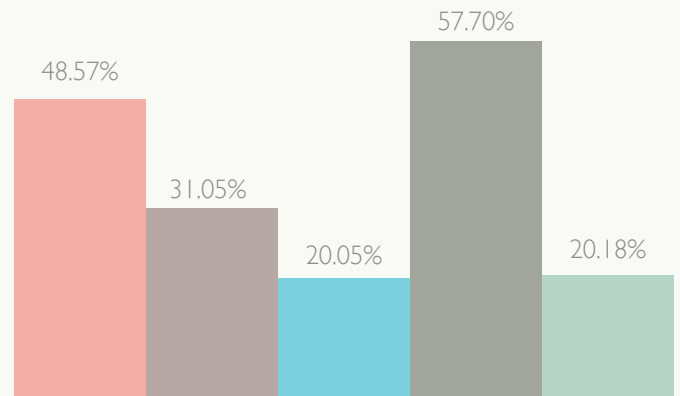


Less than ninth grade	60,271	5.63%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	101,673	9.49%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	284,480	25.56%
Some college, no degree	261,537	24.42%
Associate degree	89,110	8.32%
Bachelor's degree	161,309	15.06%
Graduate or professional degree	112,749	10.53%

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

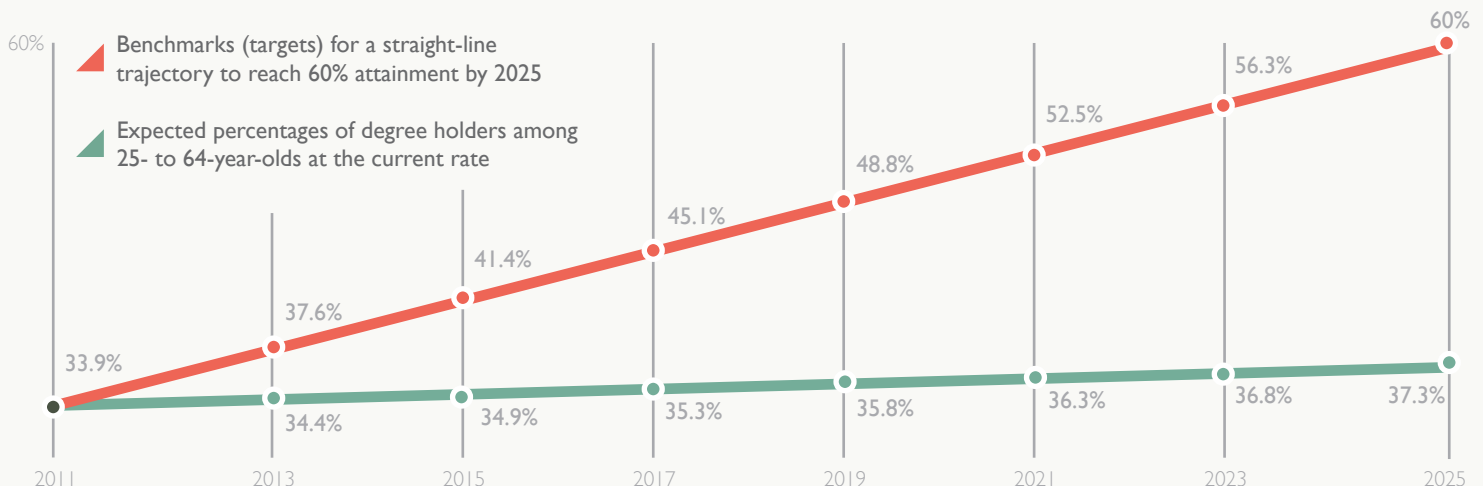
Degree-attainment rates among New Mexico adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	48.57%
Black	31.05%
Hispanic	20.05%
Asian	57.70%
Native American	20.18%



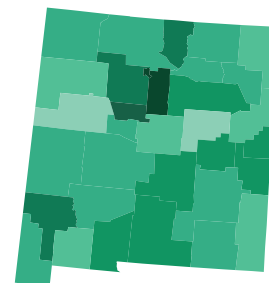
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in New Mexico



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

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



Bernalillo	40.01	De Baca	31.00	Hidalgo	23.43	Mora	25.95	San Juan	25.10	Torrance	20.22
Catron	25.21	Doña Ana	33.16	Lea	21.89	Otero	29.22	San Miguel	29.50	Union	22.14
Chaves	24.71	Eddy	25.45	Lincoln	33.18	Quay	21.92	Santa Fe	45.61	Valencia	24.15
Cibola	15.92	Grant	34.72	Los Alamos	72.15	Rio Arriba	24.13	Sierra	26.52		
Colfax	27.76	Guadalupe	16.52	Luna	18.82	Roosevelt	29.44	Socorro	26.80		
Curry	30.07	Harding	25.80	McKinley	19.03	Sandoval	38.50	Taos	37.12		

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.

