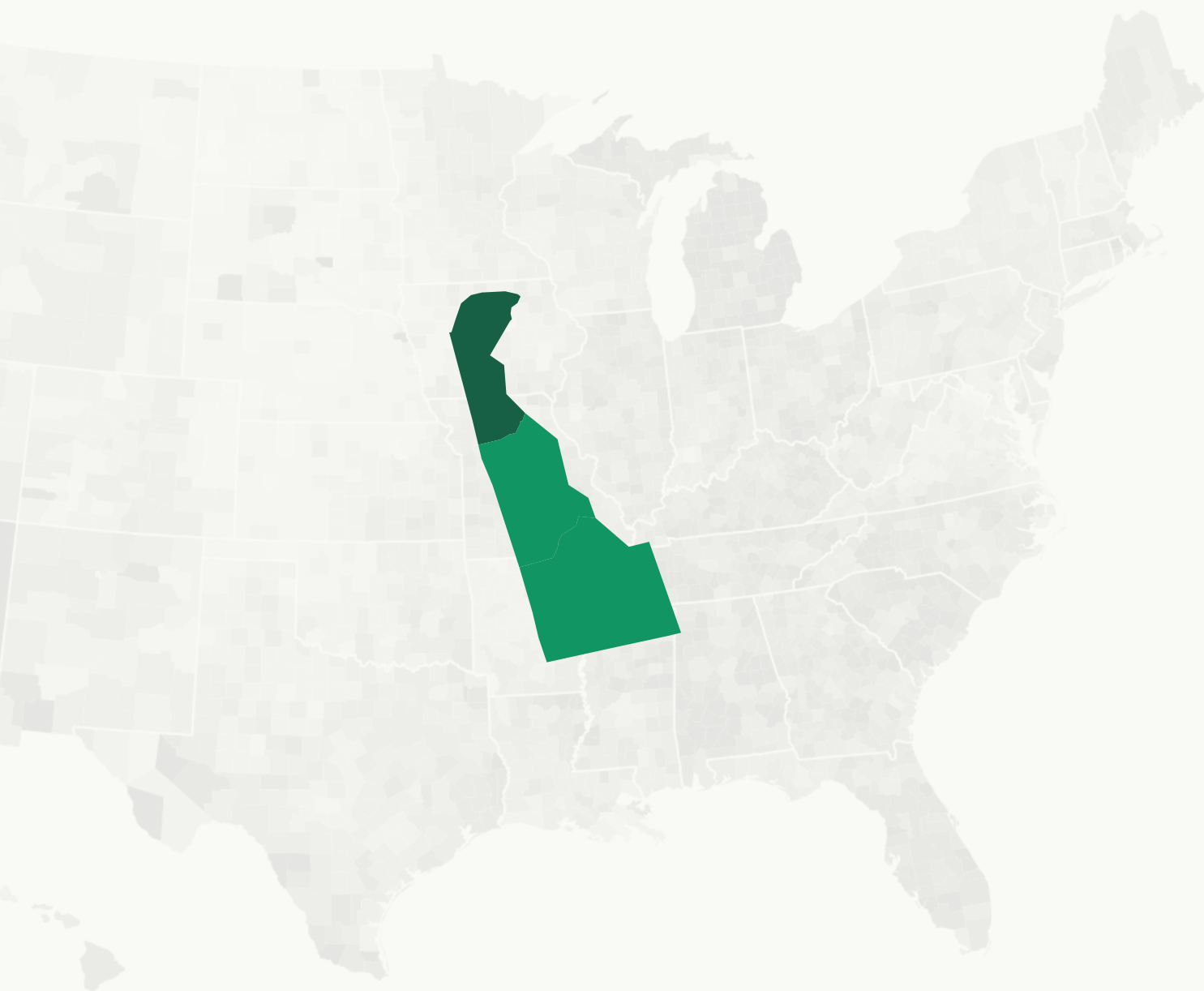


A STRONGER **DELAWARE** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



Efforts to boost college attainment in Delaware are key to achieving Goal 2025

In Delaware, 37.6 percent of the state's 477,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Delaware's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was 37.4 percent. Also, Delaware's rate of higher education attainment is 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.

Also, there is reason for concern about the educational trends in Delaware. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Delaware, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 37.4 percent — a bit lower than that of the adult population as a whole, and well below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Clearly, Delaware has a long way to go. In this state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase rapidly to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 42 percent of Delaware's adult population — 203,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 486,221, Delaware will need to add nearly 89,000 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, 83,000 of the expected 144,000

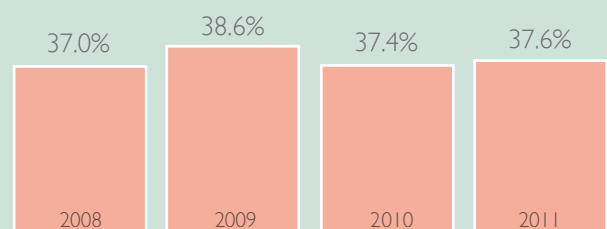
job vacancies in Delaware will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 59 percent of all Delaware jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 98,000 Delaware adults — 20.5 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 Delaware reach the 60 percent goal.

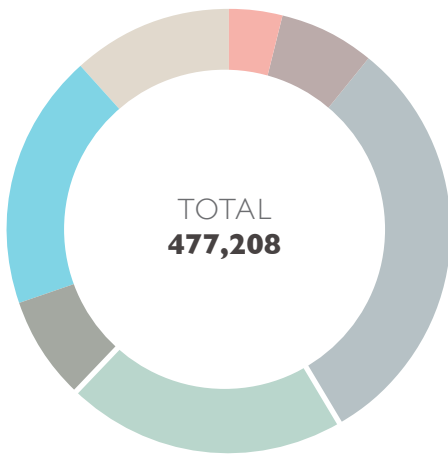
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Delaware county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

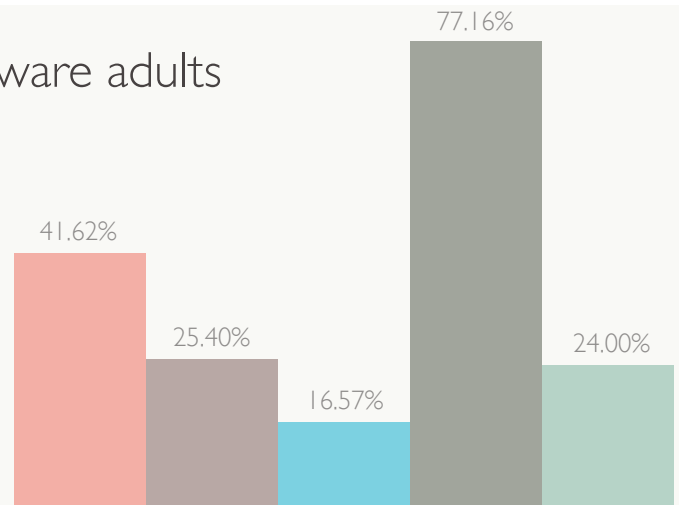


| | | |
|--|---------|---------------|
| Less than ninth grade | 18,742 | 3.93% |
| Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma | 34,038 | 7.13% |
| High school graduate (including equivalency) | 147,033 | 30.81% |
| Some college, no degree | 97,986 | 20.53% |
| Associate degree | 35,859 | 7.51% |
| Bachelor's degree | 88,415 | 18.53% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 55,135 | 11.55% |

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

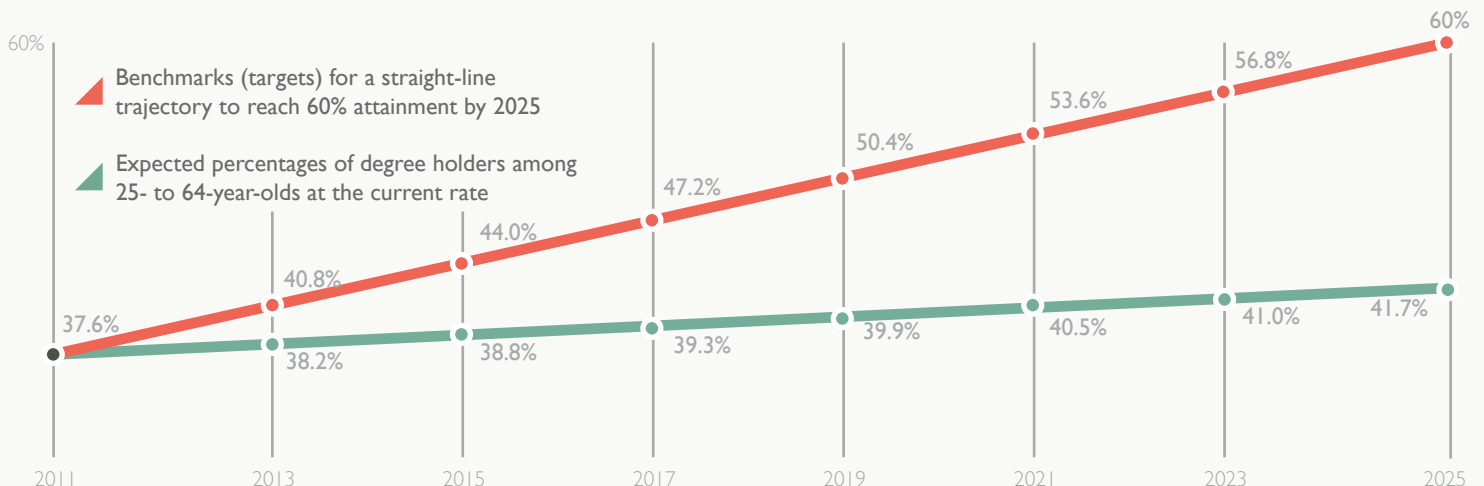
Degree-attainment rates among Delaware adults (ages 25-64), by population group

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| White | 41.62% |
| Black | 25.40% |
| Hispanic | 16.57% |
| Asian | 77.16% |
| Native American | 24.00% |



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

The path to 60% degree attainment in Delaware



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

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



| | | | | | |
|------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Kent | 31.07 | New Castle | 41.93 | Sussex | 31.02 |
|------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|

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.

