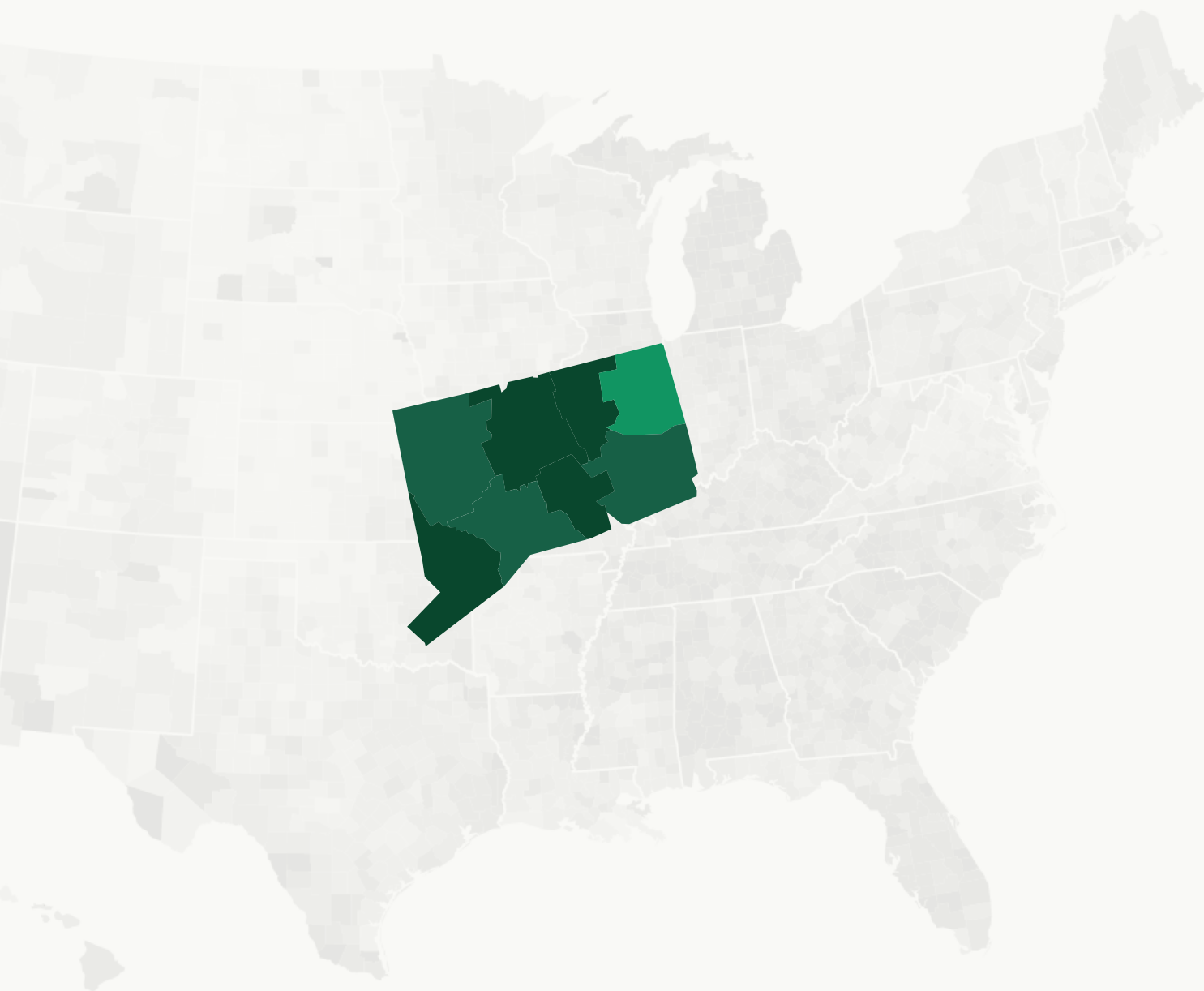


A STRONGER **CONNECTICUT** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



# Efforts to boost college attainment in Connecticut are key to achieving Goal 2025

In Connecticut, 46.4 percent of the state's 1.9 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Connecticut's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was 45.8 percent. Connecticut's rate of higher education attainment is 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.

Still, there is reason for concern about the educational trends in Connecticut. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Connecticut, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 46.1 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole, though higher than the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Despite its relative success, Connecticut must do better. In this state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 52 percent of Connecticut's adult population — 963,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 1,858,608, Connecticut will need to add more than 152,000 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, 359,000 of the expected 564,000 job vacancies in Connecticut will require postsecondary

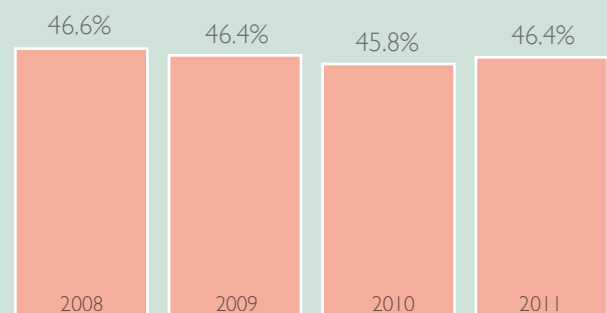
credentials. Indeed, 65 percent of all Connecticut jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 366,000 Connecticut adults — 19 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 Connecticut reach the 60 percent goal.

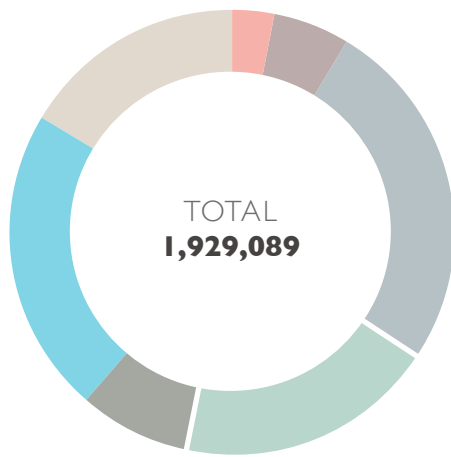
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Connecticut county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

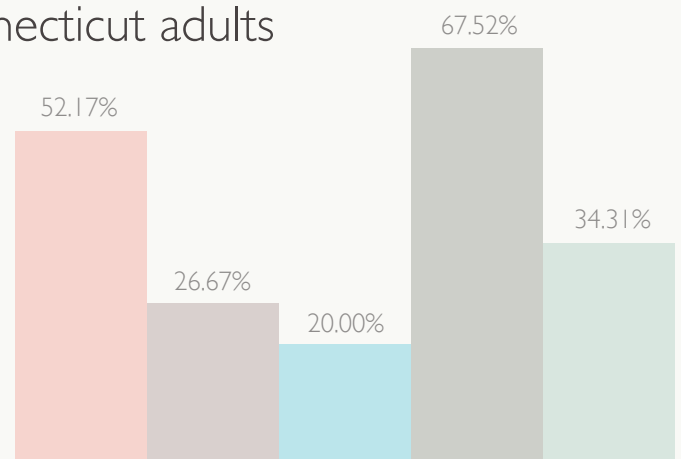


|  |         |               |
|--|---------|---------------|
| Less than ninth grade                        | 61,528  | <b>3.19%</b>  |
| Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma              | 105,627 | <b>5.48%</b>  |
| High school graduate (including equivalency) | 501,086 | <b>25.98%</b> |
| Some college, no degree                      | 365,697 | <b>18.96%</b> |
| Associate degree                             | 154,754 | <b>8.02%</b>  |
| Bachelor's degree                            | 427,696 | <b>22.17%</b> |
| Graduate or professional degree              | 312,701 | <b>16.21%</b> |

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

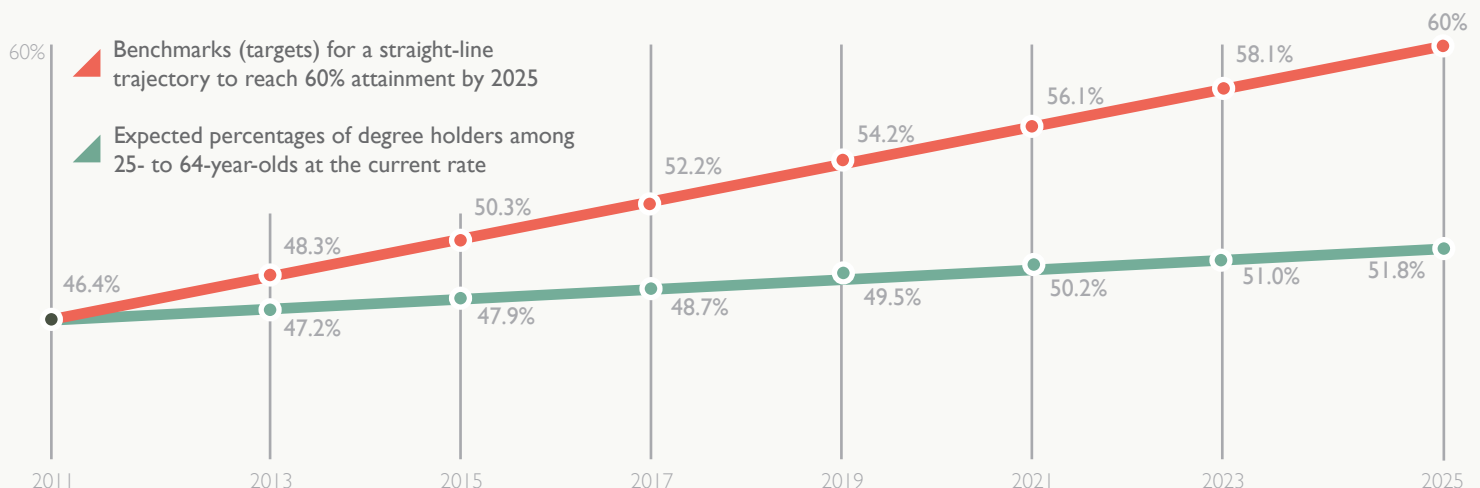
## Degree-attainment rates among Connecticut adults (ages 25-64), by population group

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| White           | <b>52.17%</b> |
| Black           | <b>26.67%</b> |
| Hispanic        | <b>20.00%</b> |
| Asian           | <b>67.52%</b> |
| Native American | <b>34.31%</b> |



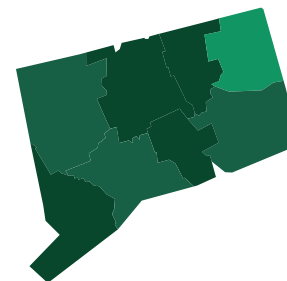
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Connecticut



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

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



|           |       |            |       |            |       |         |       |
|-----------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Fairfield | 53.60 | Litchfield | 43.80 | New Haven  | 43.02 | Tolland | 49.80 |
| Hartford  | 45.16 | Middlesex  | 50.28 | New London | 41.30 | Windham | 31.44 |

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