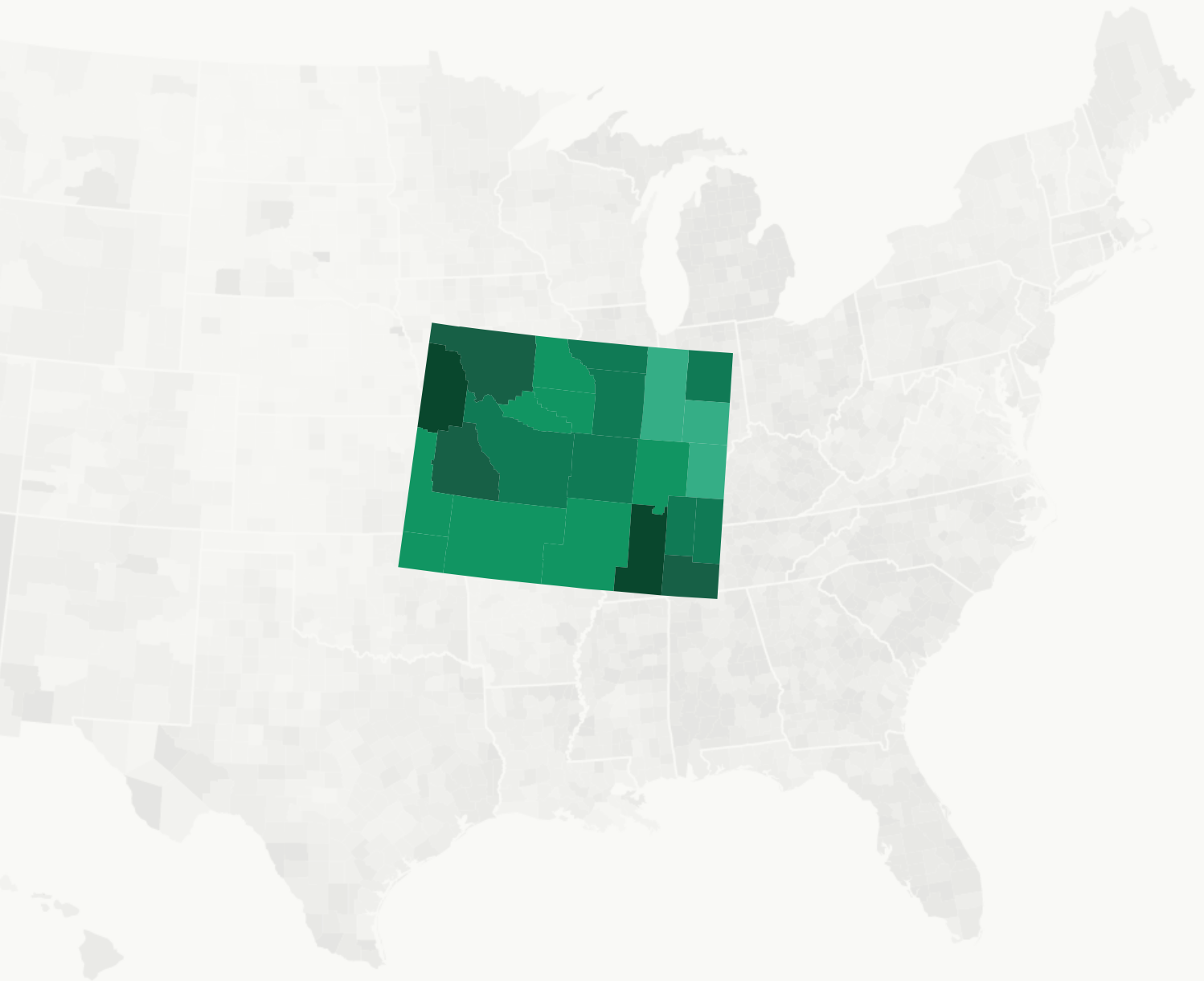


A STRONGER **WYOMING** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Wyoming, 36.2 percent of the state's 304,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Wyoming's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was 37.3 percent. Wyoming'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 Wyoming. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Wyoming, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 36.2 percent — the same as that of the adult population as a whole, and well below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Clearly, Wyoming 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 41 percent of Wyoming's adult population — 104,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 255,638, Wyoming will need to add more than 49,000 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, 65,000 of the expected 108,000 job

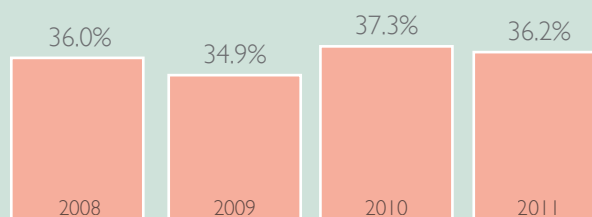
vacancies in Wyoming will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 62 percent of all Wyoming jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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, more than 83,000 Wyoming adults — 27.5 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 Wyoming reach the 60 percent goal.

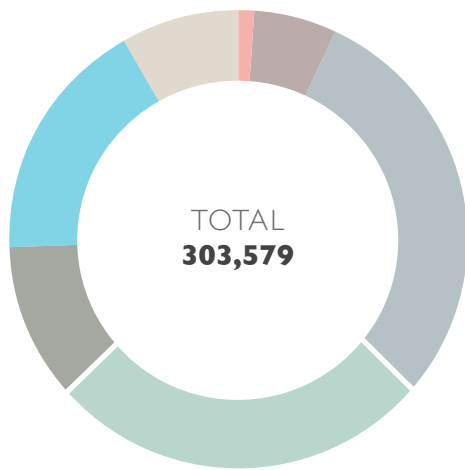
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Wyoming county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so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

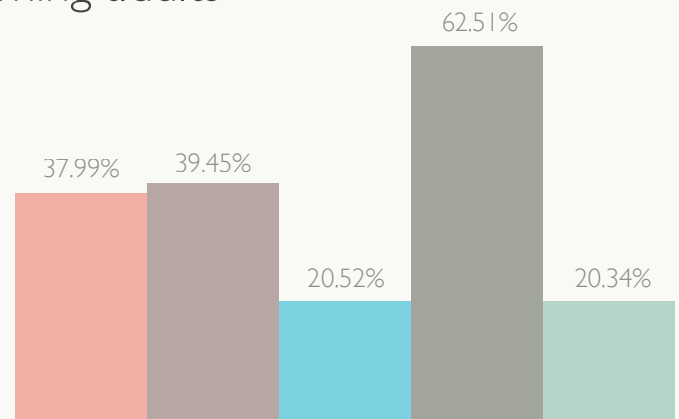


Less than ninth grade	3,880	1.28%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	17,568	5.79%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	88,884	29.28%
Some college, no degree	83,474	27.50%
Associate degree	32,491	10.70%
Bachelor's degree	52,262	17.22%
Graduate or professional degree	25,020	8.24%

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

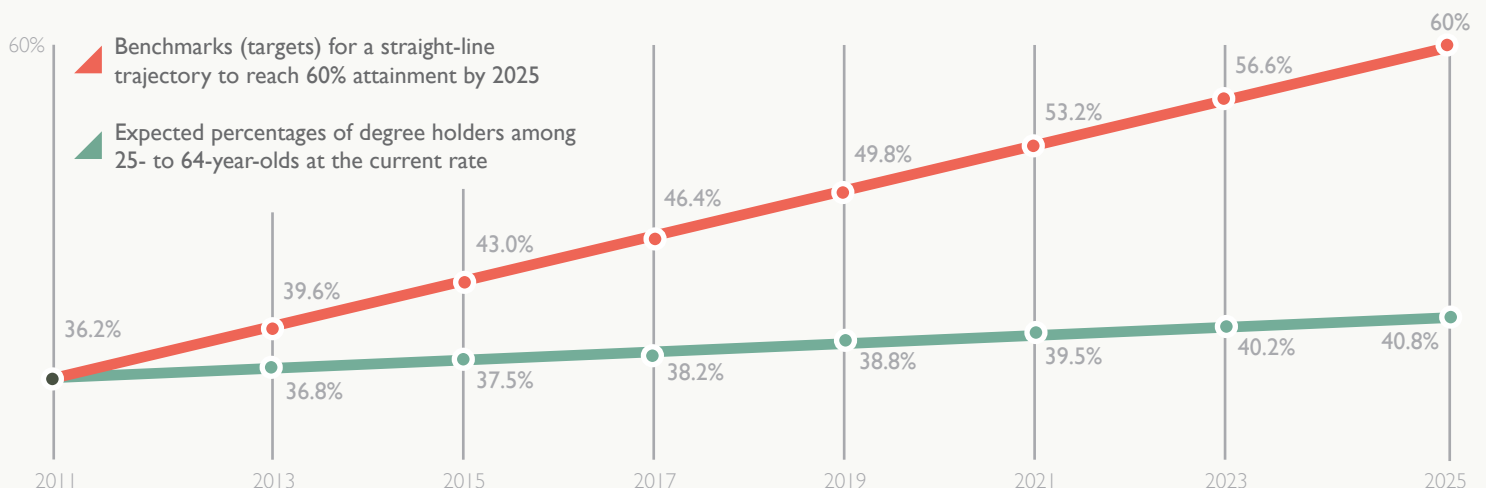
Degree-attainment rates among Wyoming adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	37.99%
Black	39.45%
Hispanic	20.52%
Asian	62.51%
Native American	20.34%



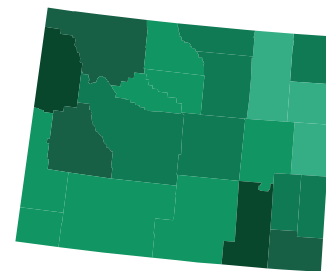
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Wyoming



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

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



Albany	59.05	Converse	28.15	Hot Springs	31.06	Natrona	34.91	Sheridan	35.93	Uinta	28.66
Big Horn	30.18	Crook	38.44	Johnson	37.25	Niobrara	25.69	Sublette	40.10	Washakie	31.24
Campbell	27.16	Fremont	34.82	Laramie	38.90	Park	41.19	Sweetwater	29.19	Weston	26.59
Carbon	28.29	Goshen	34.38	Lincoln	31.77	Platte	33.87	Teton	55.94		

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