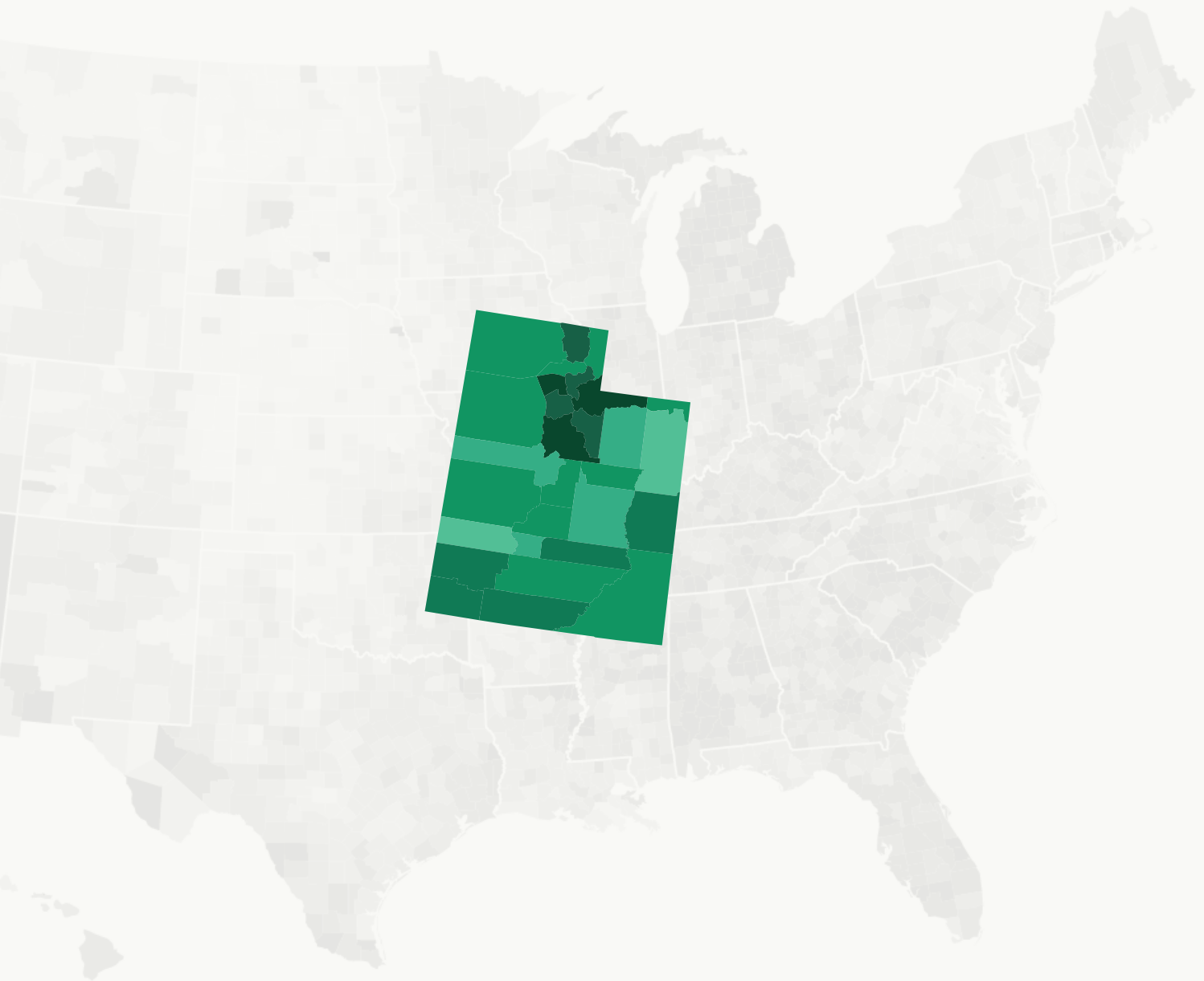


A STRONGER **UTAH** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Utah, 40.3 percent of the state's 1.35 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Utah's attainment rate is increasing slowly; last year, the rate was 39.7 percent. Utah's rate of higher education attainment is a bit higher than 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 Utah. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Utah, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 40.2 percent — a bit lower than that of the adult population as a whole, and little better than the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Clearly, Utah 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 46 percent of Utah's adult population — 660,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 1,448,347, Utah will need to add nearly 209,000 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, 308,000 of the expected 477,000 job

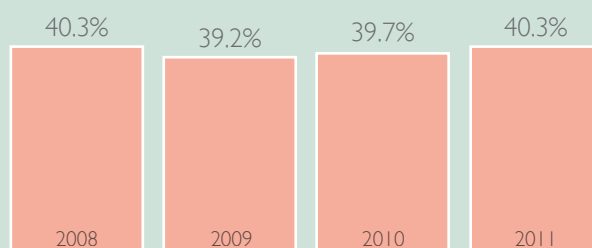
vacancies in Utah will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 66 percent of all Utah jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 375,000 Utah adults — 27.8 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 Utah reach the 60 percent goal.

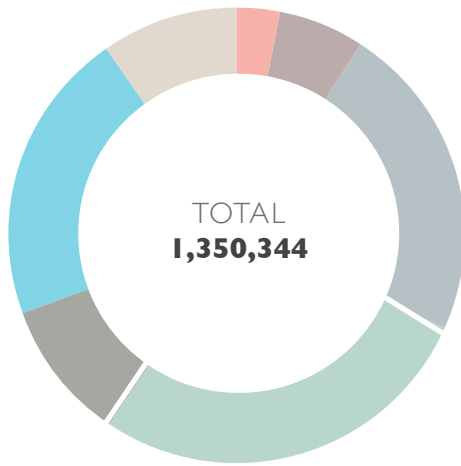
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Utah county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so assuring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

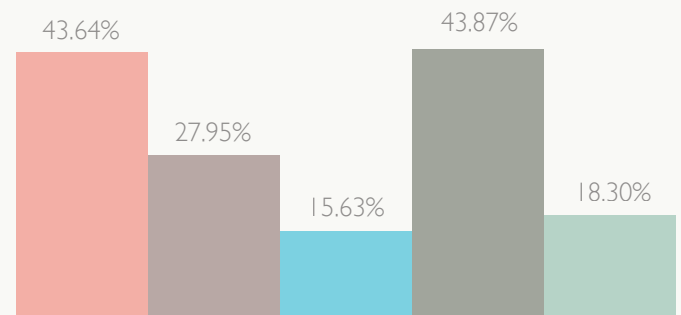


Less than ninth grade	43,089	<b>3.19%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	83,386	<b>6.18%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	304,118	<b>22.52%</b>
Some college, no degree	375,077	<b>27.78%</b>
Associate degree	134,307	<b>9.95%</b>
Bachelor's degree	281,744	<b>20.86%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	128,623	<b>9.53%</b>

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

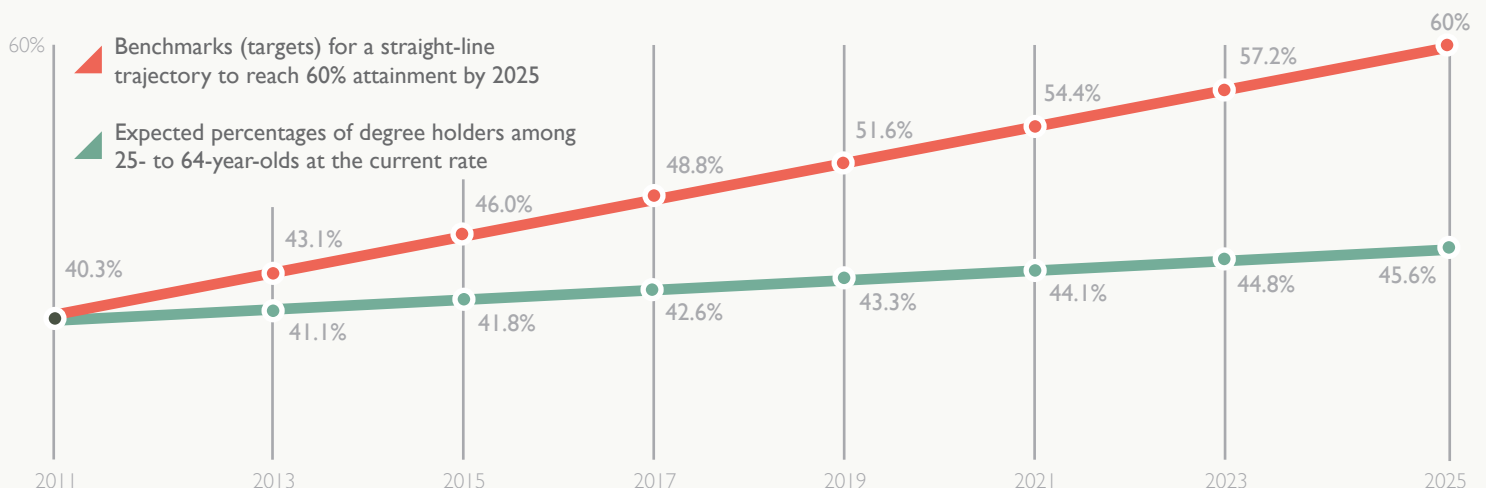
## Degree-attainment rates among Utah adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>43.64%</b>
Black	<b>27.95%</b>
Hispanic	<b>15.63%</b>
Asian	<b>43.87%</b>
Native American	<b>18.30%</b>



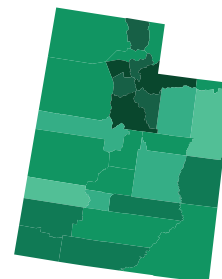
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Utah



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

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



Beaver	17.76	Davis	46.02	Iron	36.95	Piute	23.98	Sevier	28.43	Wasatch	41.89
Box Elder	31.76	Duchesne	25.69	Juab	24.75	Rich	32.25	Summit	59.28	Washington	35.20
Cache	44.20	Emery	26.61	Kane	34.94	Salt Lake	40.04	Tooele	31.21	Wayne	35.69
Carbon	27.88	Garfield	32.54	Millard	30.86	San Juan	29.67	Uintah	21.53	Weber	32.97
Daggett	28.51	Grand	34.68	Morgan	39.45	Sanpete	30.77	Utah	48.07		

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