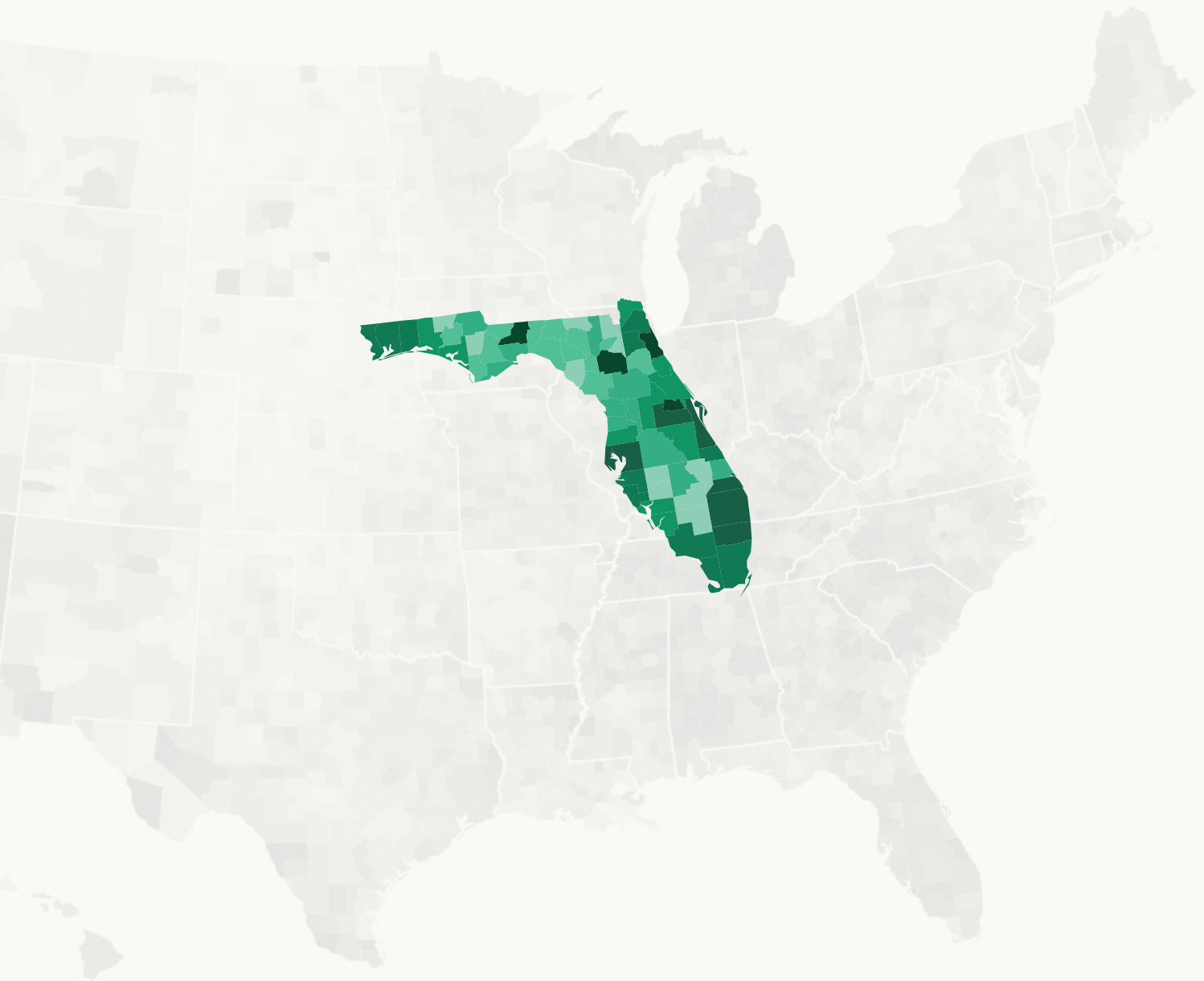


A STRONGER **FLORIDA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Florida, 37 percent of the state's 9.9 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Florida's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was 36.5 percent. Also, Florida'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 Florida. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Florida, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 37.2 percent — only a bit higher than that of the adult population as a whole, and well below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Clearly, Florida 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 43 percent of Florida's adult population — 5.2 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 12,249,025, Florida will need to add 2.1 million 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, 1.6 million of the expected 2.8 million

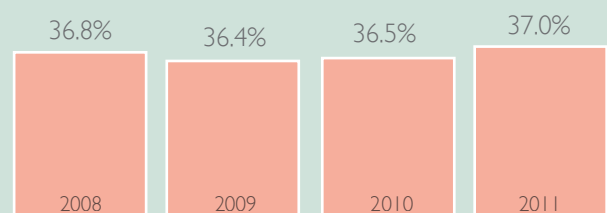
job vacancies in Florida will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 59 percent of all Florida jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

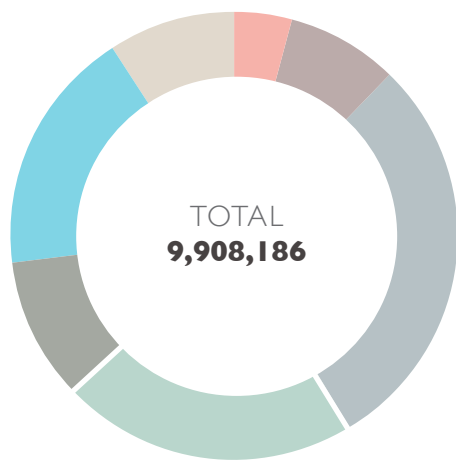
Clearly, the state's economic future depends on producing more college graduates — and an excellent place to begin is with those who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2011, more than 2.1 million Florida adults — 21.5 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but lacked either a two- or four-year degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way toward helping Florida 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 Florida 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. Florida 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 Florida'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





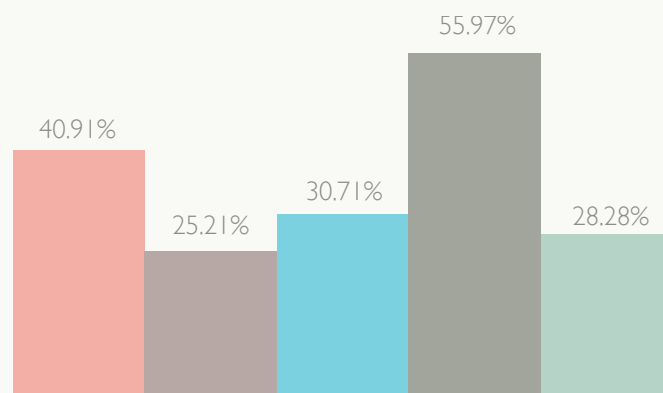
Levels of education for Florida adults (ages 25-64)

Less than ninth grade	428,854	4.33%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	786,740	7.94%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	2,904,408	29.31%
Some college, no degree	2,126,333	21.46%
Associate degree	1,003,938	10.13%
Bachelor's degree	1,753,121	17.69%
Graduate or professional degree	904,792	9.13%

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

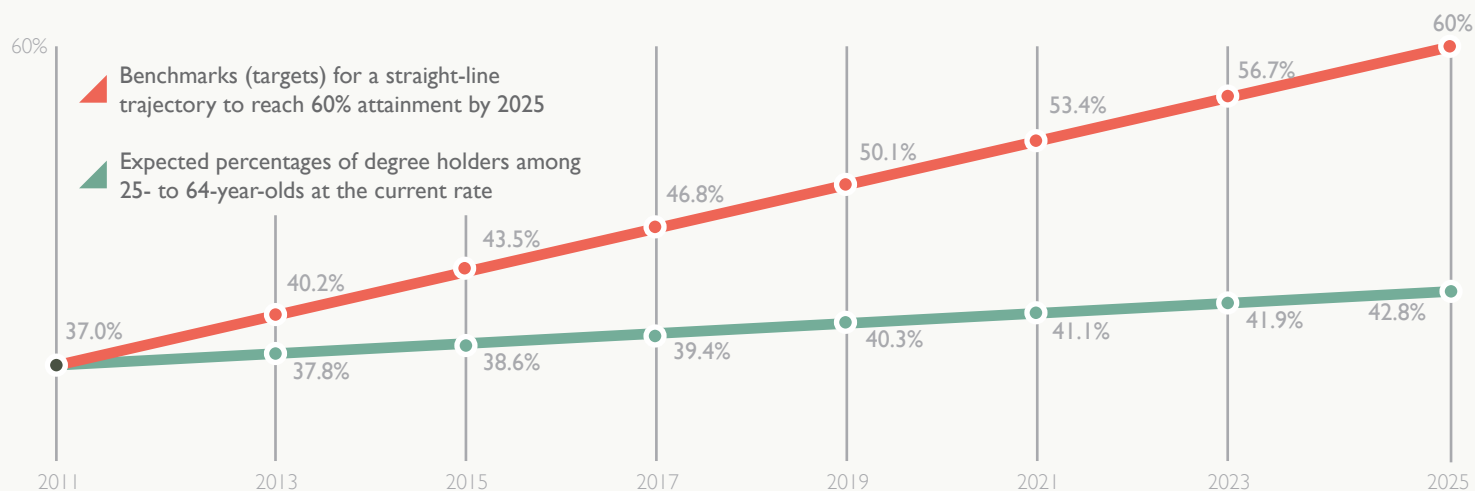
Degree-attainment rates among Florida adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	40.91%
Black	25.21%
Hispanic	30.71%
Asian	55.97%
Native American	28.28%



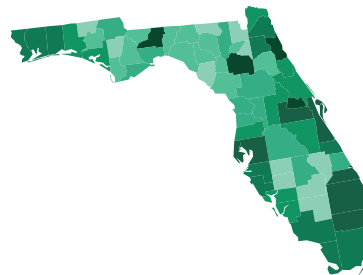
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Florida



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

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



Alachua	54.15	DeSoto	14.23	Hendry	14.38	Levy	20.58	Osceola	30.71	Suwannee	17.50
Baker	14.59	Dixie	13.25	Hernando	26.59	Liberty	18.29	Palm Beach	42.12	Taylor	17.66
Bay	32.81	Duval	35.83	Highlands	23.00	Madison	18.29	Pasco	32.97	Union	16.72
Bradford	16.12	Escambia	35.15	Hillsborough	40.97	Manatee	36.49	Pinellas	39.08	Volusia	32.77
Brevard	40.24	Flagler	32.98	Holmes	14.80	Marion	27.39	Polk	27.43	Wakulla	26.10
Broward	42.02	Franklin	23.53	Indian River	34.01	Martin	41.67	Putnam	19.36	Walton	32.04
Calhoun	14.05	Gadsden	18.68	Jackson	23.18	Miami-Dade	37.68	St. Johns	49.35	Washington	17.26
Charlotte	31.81	Gilchrist	20.49	Jefferson	20.02	Monroe	38.03	St. Lucie	26.83		
Citrus	25.25	Glades	16.23	Lafayette	21.65	Nassau	30.34	Santa Rosa	38.34		
Clay	34.44	Gulf	20.49	Lake	30.17	Okaloosa	38.68	Sarasota	38.50		
Collier	35.49	Hamilton	15.81	Lee	32.80	Okeechobee	15.82	Seminole	46.38		
Columbia	23.41	Hardee	13.08	Leon	53.30	Orange	42.30	Sumter	23.72		

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.

