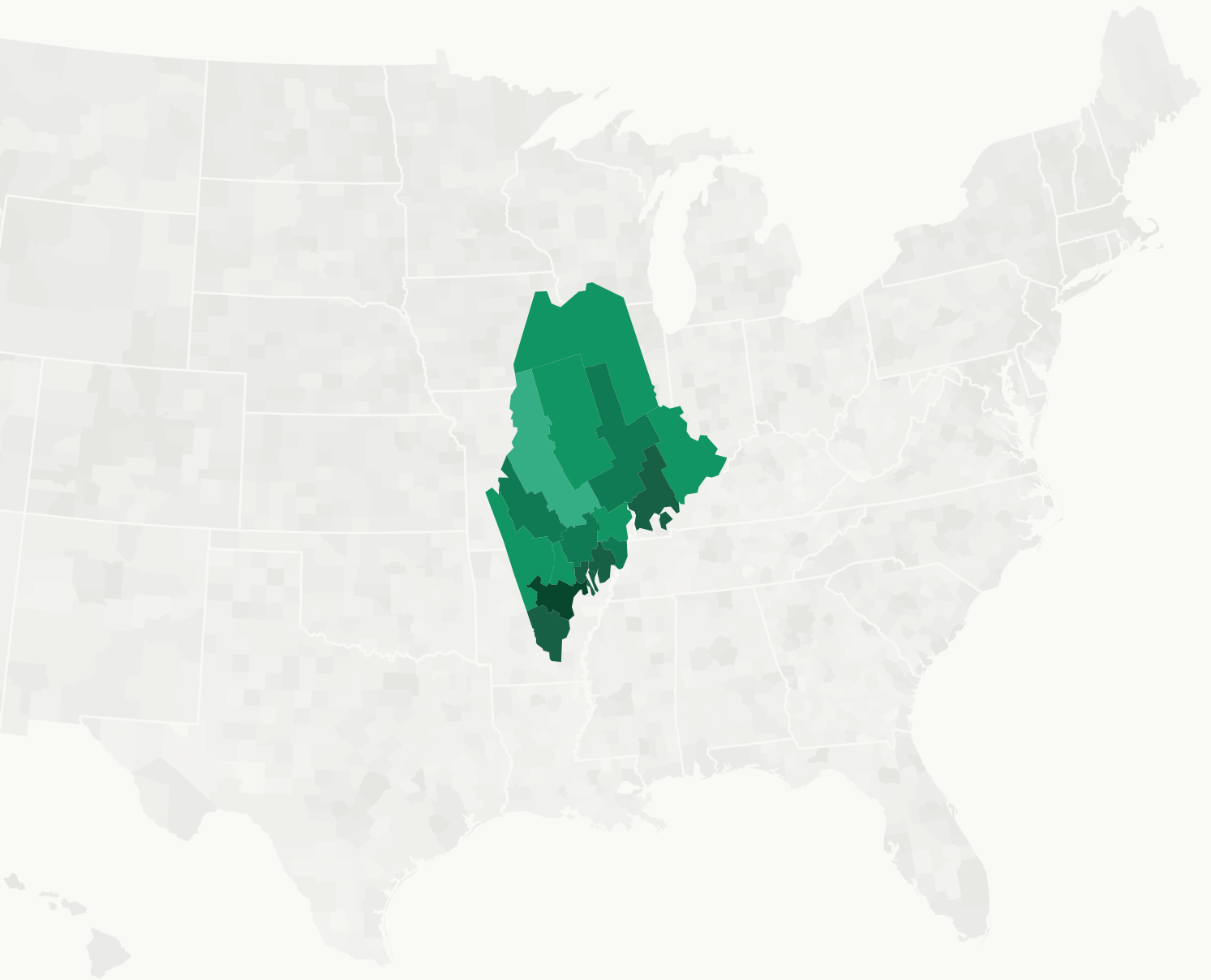


A STRONGER **MAINE** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Maine, 40 percent of the state's 725,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Maine's attainment rate is increasing; last year, the rate was 38.8 percent. Also, Maine's rate of higher education attainment is slightly 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.

There is also reason for concern about educational trends in Maine. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Maine, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 39.5 percent — lower than that of the adult population as a whole, and also below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Maine is making some progress, but it has a long way to go. In the state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, 48.5 percent of Maine's adult population — 351,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 724,345, Maine will need to add more than 83,000 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, 115,000 of the expected 196,000 job

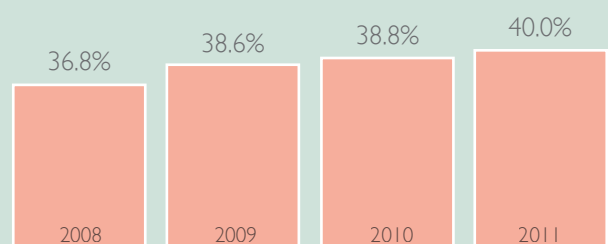
vacancies in Maine will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 59 percent of all Maine jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 155,000 Maine adults — 21.3 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 Maine reach the 60 percent goal.

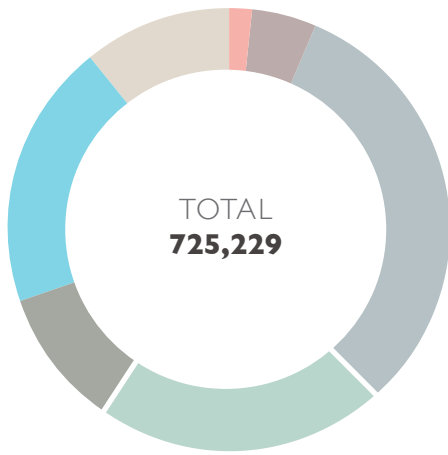
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Maine county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so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

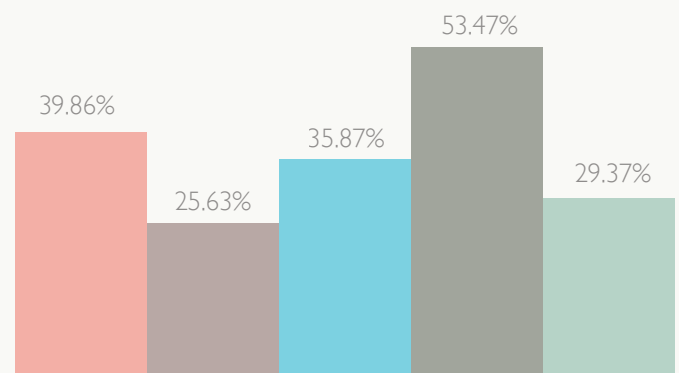


Less than ninth grade	12,085	<b>1.67%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	34,663	<b>4.78%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	233,665	<b>32.22%</b>
Some college, no degree	154,534	<b>21.31%</b>
Associate degree	72,415	<b>9.99%</b>
Bachelor's degree	140,902	<b>19.43%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	76,965	<b>10.61%</b>

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

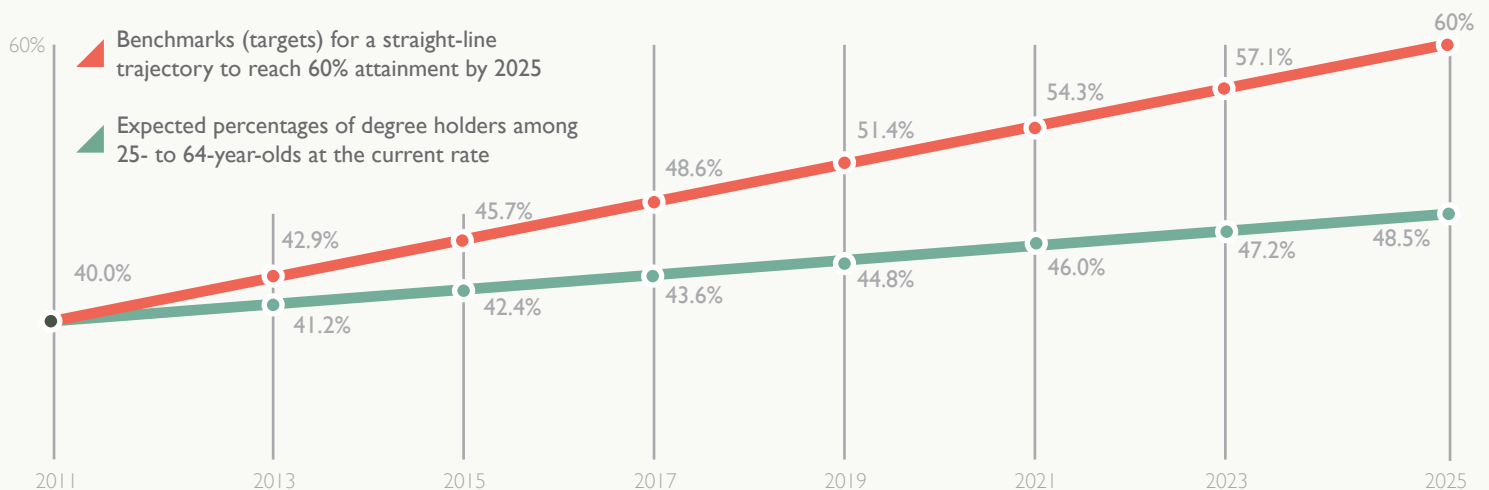
## Degree-attainment rates among Maine adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>39.86%</b>
Black	<b>25.63%</b>
Hispanic	<b>35.87%</b>
Asian	<b>53.47%</b>
Native American	<b>29.37%</b>



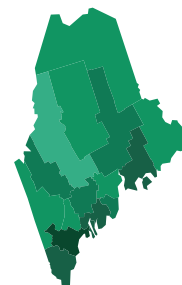
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Maine



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

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



Androscoggin	30.76	Franklin	34.82	Knox	37.87	Penobscot	37.12	Somerset	26.94	York	40.28
Aroostook	29.09	Hancock	39.77	Lincoln	39.65	Piscataquis	28.56	Waldo	33.16		
Cumberland	52.33	Kennebec	37.26	Oxford	28.02	Sagadahoc	40.90	Washington	28.43		

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.

