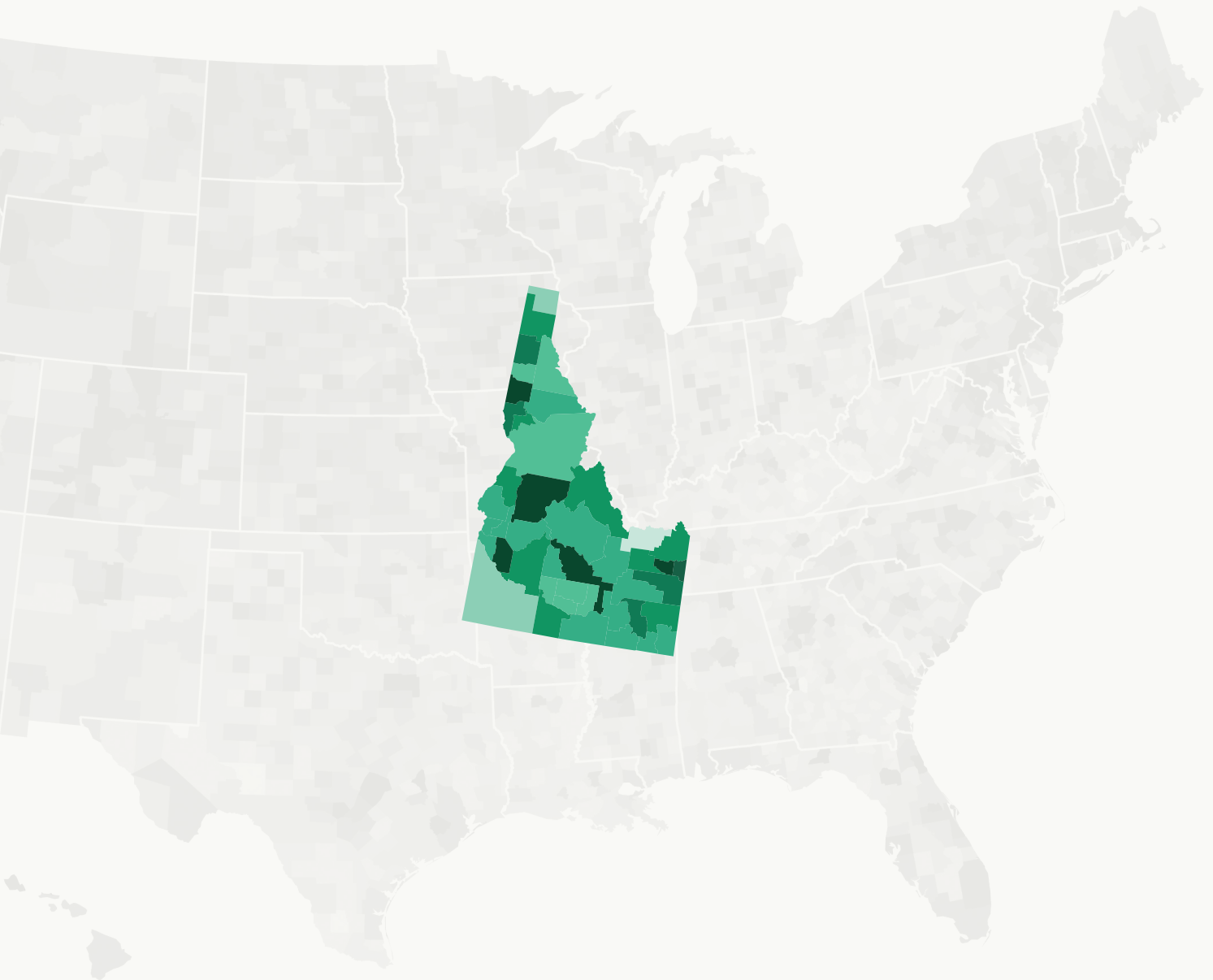


A STRONGER **IDAHO** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Idaho, 36.5 percent of the state's 794,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Idaho's attainment rate is increasing; last year, the rate was 34.7 percent. Still, Idaho'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.

There is also reason for concern about the educational trends in Idaho. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Idaho, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at just 35 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole. What's more, Idaho's attainment rate among young adults is below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Idaho clearly has a long way to go. In this state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase rapidly and steadily to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 43 percent of Idaho's adult population — 390,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 912,666, Idaho will need to add nearly 158,000 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, 146,000 of the expected 239,000 job

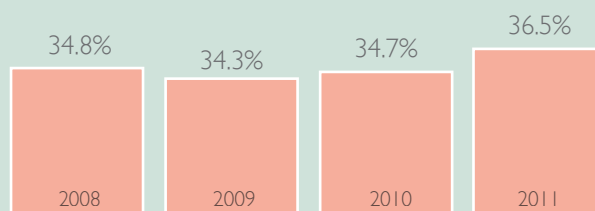
vacancies in Idaho will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 61 percent of all Idaho jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 218,000 Idaho 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 Idaho reach the 60 percent goal.

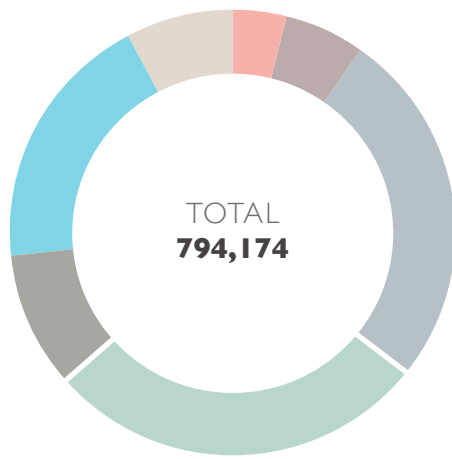
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Idaho county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so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

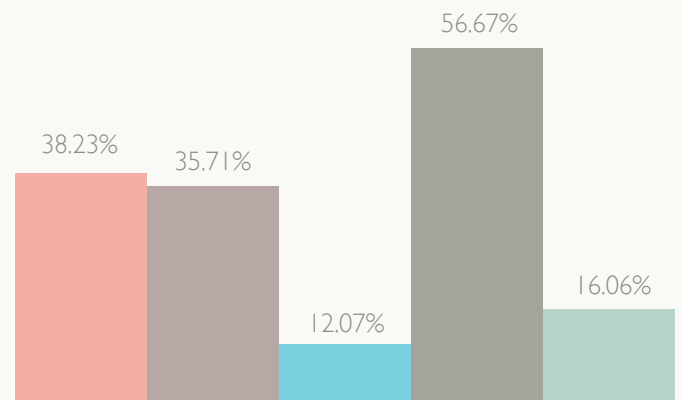


Less than ninth grade	31,539	<b>3.97%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	47,839	<b>6.02%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	206,811	<b>26.04%</b>
Some college, no degree	218,378	<b>27.50%</b>
Associate degree	78,951	<b>9.94%</b>
Bachelor's degree	149,433	<b>18.82%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	61,223	<b>7.71%</b>

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

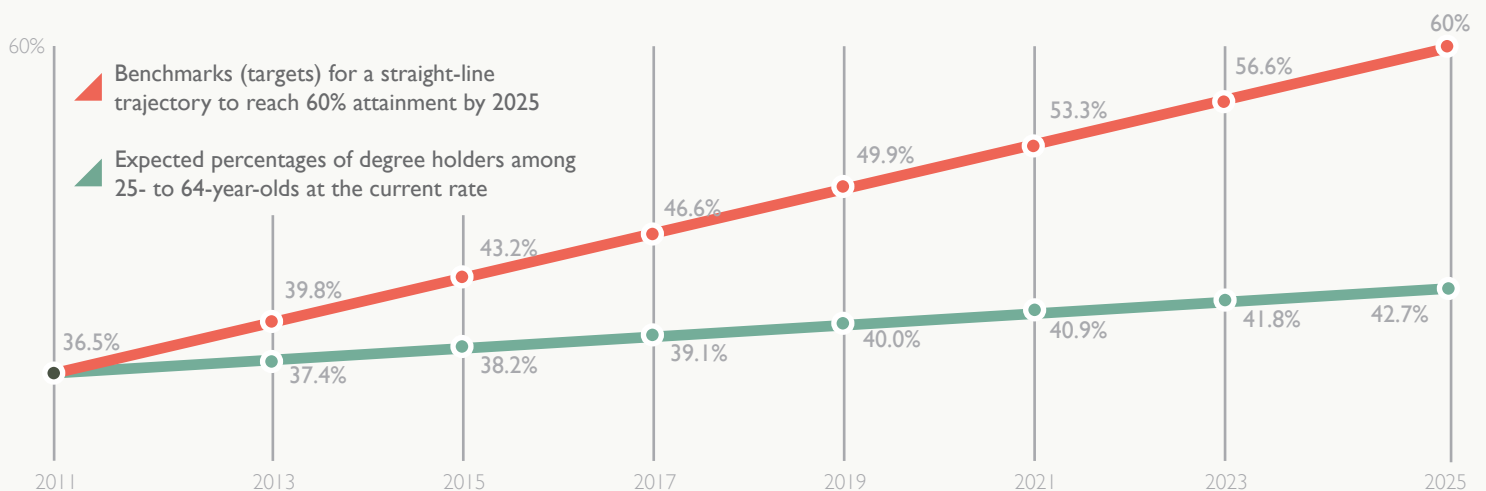
## Degree-attainment rates among Idaho adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>38.23%</b>
Black	<b>35.71%</b>
Hispanic	<b>12.07%</b>
Asian	<b>56.67%</b>
Native American	<b>16.06%</b>



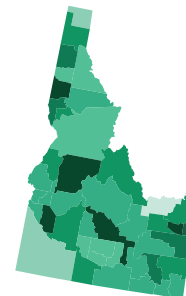
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Idaho



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

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



Ada	45.93	Bonner	32.07	Clark	9.95	Idaho	21.13	Madison	47.02	Teton	41.04
Adams	28.93	Bonneville	38.82	Clearwater	26.12	Jefferson	32.42	Minidoka	19.49	Twin Falls	30.54
Bannock	38.57	Boundary	14.92	Custer	26.28	Jerome	19.39	Nez Perce	33.56	Valley	45.15
Bear Lake	24.01	Butte	27.10	Elmore	29.26	Kootenai	35.45	Oneida	25.99	Washington	25.60
Benewah	19.94	Camas	26.70	Franklin	25.88	Latah	52.71	Owyhee	15.42		
Bingham	26.24	Canyon	25.40	Fremont	28.13	Lemhi	32.23	Payette	25.61		
Blaine	48.10	Caribou	31.79	Gem	22.45	Lewis	29.78	Power	25.21		
Boise	26.98	Cassia	26.17	Gooding	20.29	Lincoln	17.54	Shoshone	19.04		

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.

