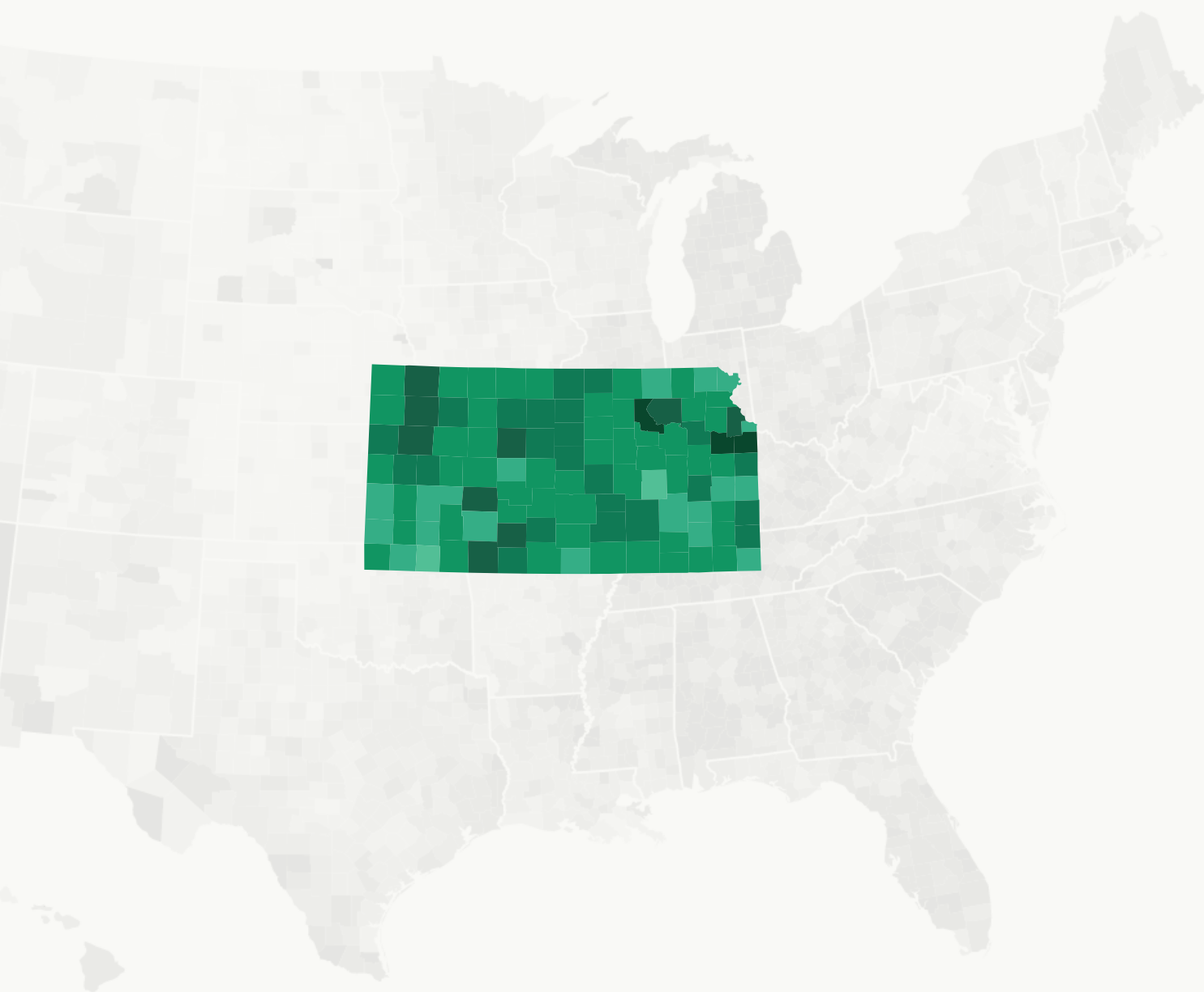


A STRONGER **KANSAS** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Kansas, 40.7 percent of the state's 1.5 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Kansas' attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was 40.5 percent. Kansas' rate of higher education attainment is slightly above 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 optimism about education trends in Kansas. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Kansas, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 42.7 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole. This suggests that young people in Kansas are getting the message that higher education is important to their future. Kansas' attainment rate among young adults is also better than the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Despite its relative success, however, Kansas must do better. 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, about 47 percent of Kansas' adult population — 660,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 1,397,674, Kansas will need to add nearly 179,000 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, 301,000 of the expected 482,000 job

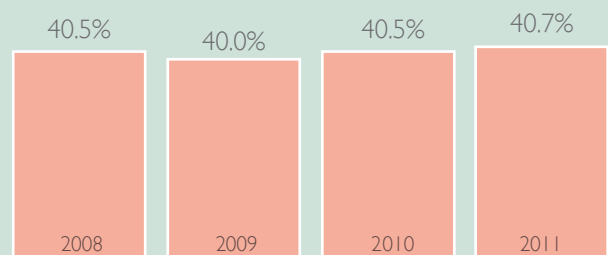
vacancies in Kansas will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 64 percent of all Kansas jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 370,000 Kansas adults — 25.2 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 Kansas reach the 60 percent goal.

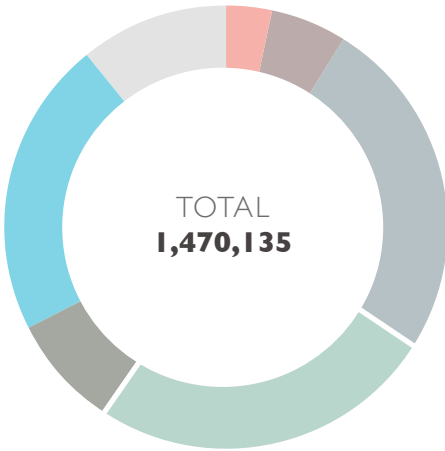
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Kansas county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so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

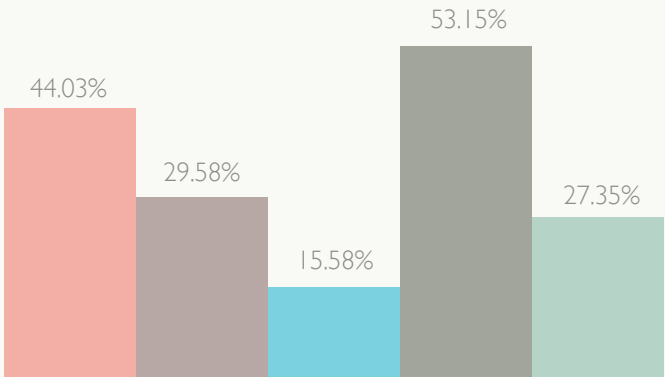


Less than ninth grade	50,419	<b>3.43%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	80,581	<b>5.48%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	371,330	<b>25.26%</b>
Some college, no degree	369,861	<b>25.16%</b>
Associate degree	123,872	<b>8.43%</b>
Bachelor's degree	316,216	<b>21.51%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	157,856	<b>10.74%</b>

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

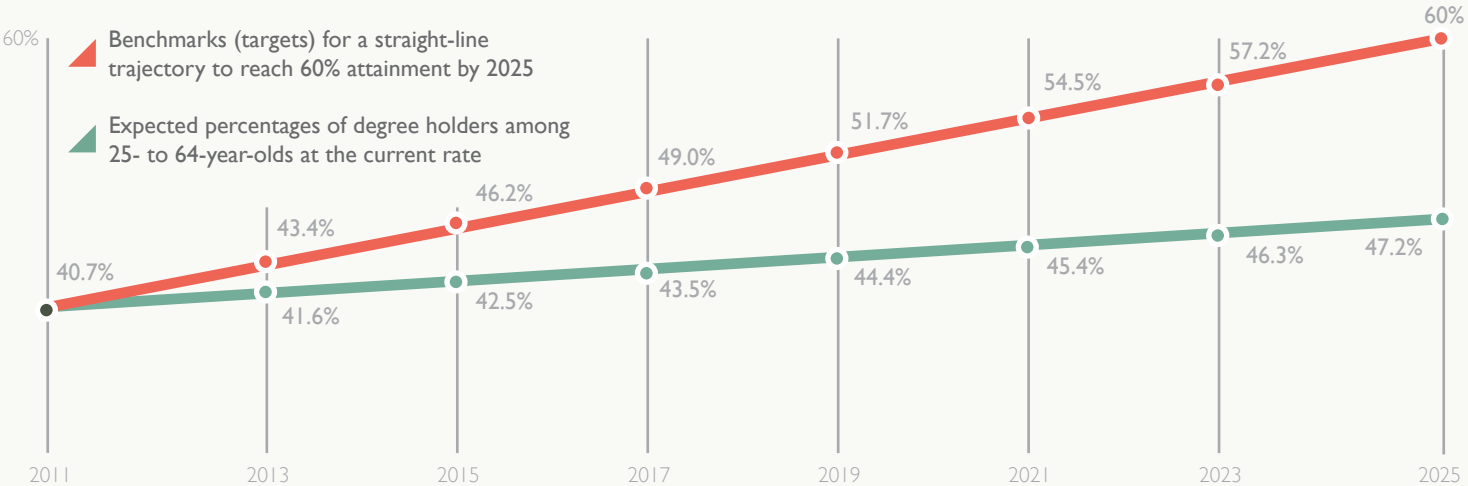
## Degree-attainment rates among Kansas adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>44.03%</b>
Black	<b>29.58%</b>
Hispanic	<b>15.58%</b>
Asian	<b>53.15%</b>
Native American	<b>27.35%</b>



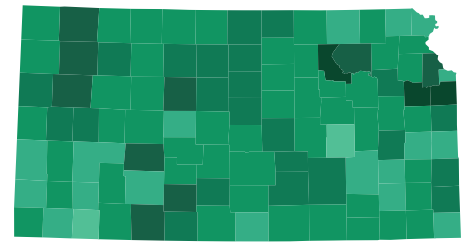
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Kansas



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

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



Allen	32.14	Crawford	38.47	Greenwood	22.86	Logan	39.46	Pawnee	31.32	Sherman	30.46
Anderson	26.23	Decatur	30.87	Hamilton	24.79	Lyon	29.68	Phillips	31.13	Smith	32.86
Atchison	29.79	Dickinson	30.21	Harper	27.72	McPherson	34.35	Pottawatomie	40.92	Stafford	32.79
Barber	32.26	Doniphan	27.66	Harvey	37.73	Marion	32.07	Pratt	35.72	Stanton	22.25
Barton	32.19	Douglas	57.65	Haskell	23.81	Marshall	24.60	Rawlins	40.27	Stevens	23.40
Bourbon	38.04	Edwards	32.85	Hodgeman	39.45	Meade	31.25	Reno	31.67	Sumner	29.10
Brown	26.34	Elk	33.05	Jackson	29.48	Miami	34.62	Republic	36.79	Thomas	43.75
Butler	38.46	Ellis	43.32	Jefferson	32.63	Mitchell	35.49	Rice	29.78	Trego	33.26
Chase	20.34	Ellsworth	34.29	Jewell	36.87	Montgomery	30.70	Riley	54.45	Wabaunsee	31.48
Chautauqua	28.10	Finney	27.65	Johnson	61.49	Morris	29.46	Rooks	33.47	Wallace	34.40
Cherokee	25.39	Ford	25.08	Kearny	29.71	Morton	32.68	Rush	26.78	Washington	32.91
Cheyenne	30.33	Franklin	28.31	Kingman	32.14	Nemaha	32.37	Russell	36.11	Wichita	34.99
Clark	40.06	Geary	31.71	Kiowa	39.89	Neosho	28.50	Saline	33.31	Wilson	22.50
Clay	30.41	Gove	33.16	Labette	31.49	Ness	31.47	Scott	34.77	Woodson	26.30
Cloud	32.56	Graham	32.14	Lane	32.41	Norton	29.28	Sedgwick	37.17	Wyandotte	23.61
Coffey	34.36	Grant	29.90	Leavenworth	39.38	Osage	28.36	Seward	19.83		
Comanche	33.73	Gray	33.30	Lincoln	36.64	Osborne	35.09	Shawnee	37.87		
Cowley	31.90	Greeley	30.83	Linn	25.42	Ottawa	28.91	Sheridan	34.19		

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