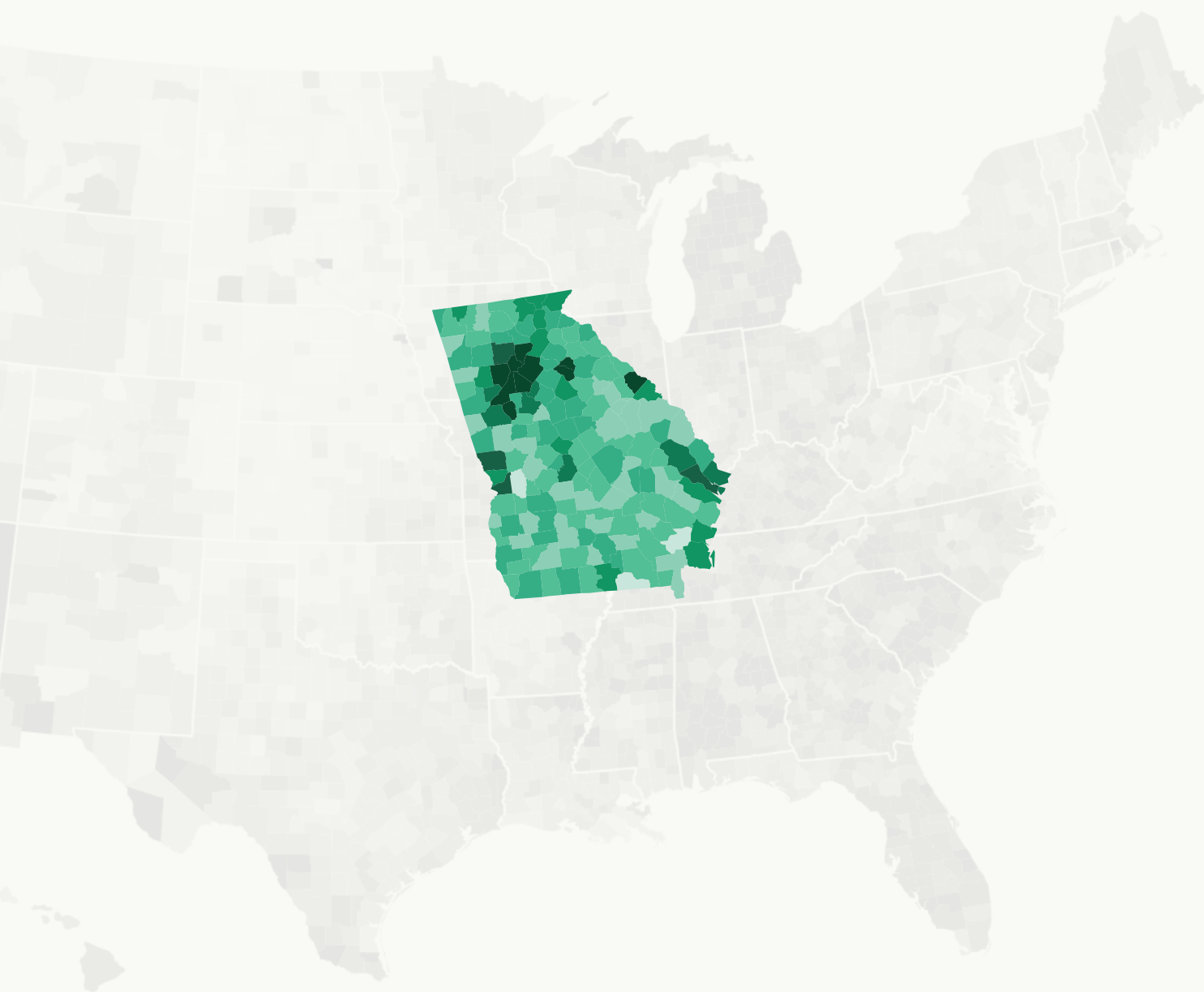


A STRONGER **GEORGIA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Georgia, 36.4 percent of the state's 5.2 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Georgia's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was 36.1 percent. Also, Georgia'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 Georgia. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Georgia, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 36.2 percent — a bit lower than that of the adult population as a whole, and well below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Clearly, Georgia 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 42 percent of Georgia's adult population — 2.4 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 5,652,637, Georgia will need to add 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, 820,000 of the expected 1.4 million

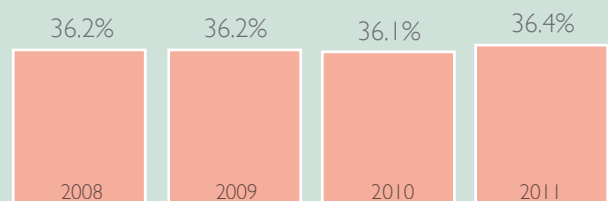
job vacancies in Georgia will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 58 percent of all Georgia jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 1.1 million Georgia 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 Georgia reach the 60 percent goal.

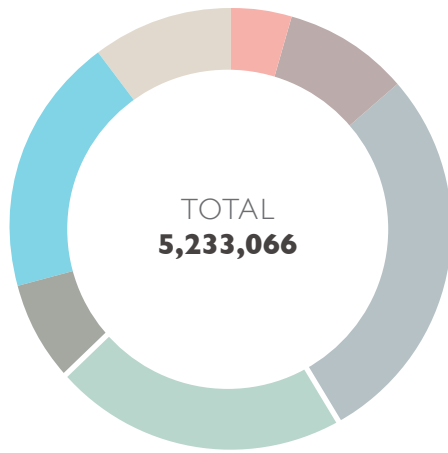
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Georgia county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so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

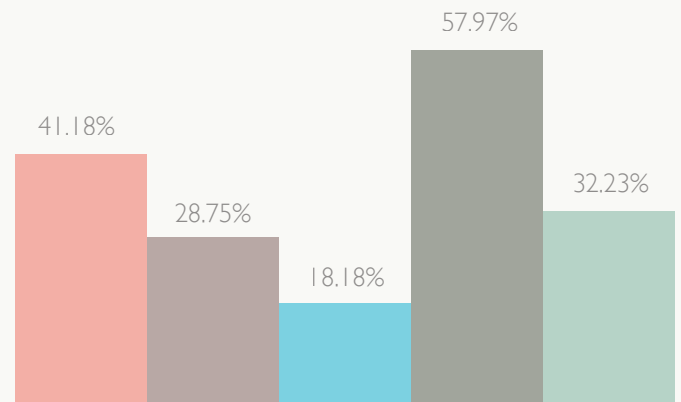


Less than ninth grade	243,103	<b>4.65%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	477,795	<b>9.13%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,484,632	<b>28.37%</b>
Some college, no degree	1,124,465	<b>21.49%</b>
Associate degree	378,333	<b>7.23%</b>
Bachelor's degree	998,793	<b>19.09%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	525,945	<b>10.5%</b>

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

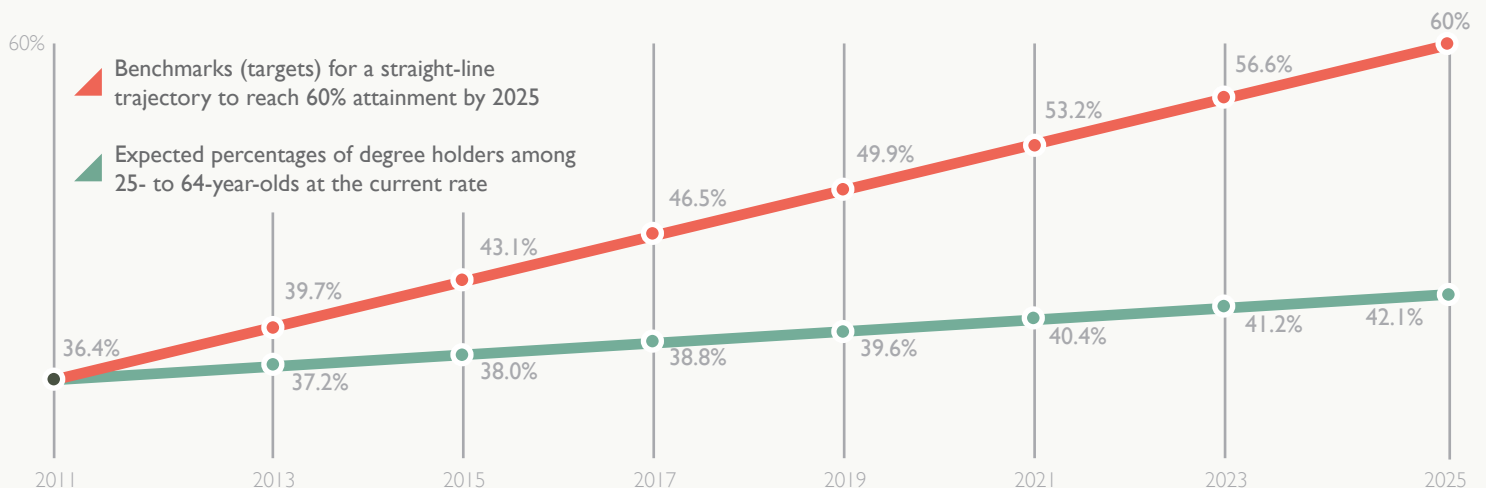
## Degree-attainment rates among Georgia adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>41.18%</b>
Black	<b>28.75%</b>
Hispanic	<b>18.18%</b>
Asian	<b>57.97%</b>
Native American	<b>32.23%</b>



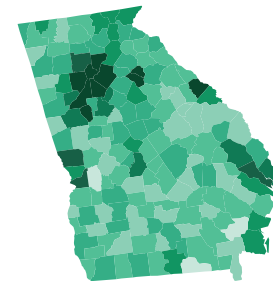
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Georgia



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

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



Appling	17.08	Cherokee	43.48	Fannin	21.19	Jenkins	24.68	Oglethorpe	24.03	Thomas	26.66
Atkinson	12.25	Clarke	46.26	Fayette	55.38	Johnson	18.54	Paulding	30.97	Tift	27.64
Bacon	13.47	Clay	17.06	Floyd	26.30	Jones	25.44	Peach	26.01	Toombs	22.41
Baker	20.67	Clayton	26.04	Forsyth	53.40	Lamar	17.17	Pickens	26.44	Towns	29.05
Baldwin	25.44	Clinch	19.36	Franklin	20.64	Lanier	22.56	Pierce	18.15	Treutlen	15.60
Banks	17.50	Cobb	52.99	Fulton	55.55	Laurens	22.60	Pike	23.24	Troup	26.77
Barrow	25.13	Coffee	19.33	Gilmer	18.89	Lee	27.19	Polk	16.60	Turner	21.51
Bartow	22.33	Colquitt	19.24	Glascocock	16.48	Liberty	28.94	Pulaski	18.09	Twiggs	16.75
Ben Hill	19.63	Columbia	46.06	Glynn	32.78	Lincoln	18.36	Putnam	25.26	Union	30.84
Berrien	23.06	Cook	15.21	Gordon	19.23	Long	16.02	Quitman	13.72	Upton	16.16
Bibb	31.19	Coweta	36.22	Grady	20.61	Lowndes	31.12	Rabun	28.21	Walker	20.99
Bleckley	20.38	Crawford	17.99	Greene	19.01	Lumpkin	26.24	Randolph	26.37	Walton	27.23
Brantley	10.36	Crisp	20.23	Gwinnett	45.28	McDuffie	20.48	Richmond	28.86	Ware	20.59
Brooks	18.88	Dade	24.80	Habersham	25.51	McIntosh	20.63	Rockdale	34.18	Warren	11.37
Bryan	39.58	Dawson	25.72	Hall	28.98	Macon	17.29	Schley	18.20	Washington	14.22
Bulloch	33.65	Decatur	22.80	Hancock	17.78	Madison	18.92	Screven	16.48	Wayne	18.43
Burke	14.18	DeKalb	47.82	Haralson	19.07	Marion	9.92	Seminole	18.53	Webster	22.22
Butts	15.20	Dodge	21.60	Harris	40.28	Meriwether	12.08	Spalding	19.99	Wheeler	16.18
Calhoun	13.77	Dooly	16.53	Hart	22.55	Miller	19.72	Stephens	23.51	White	27.97
Camden	30.22	Dougherty	25.93	Heard	16.12	Mitchell	16.63	Stewart	17.40	Whitfield	20.67
Candler	19.72	Douglas	33.98	Henry	36.32	Monroe	23.26	Sumter	24.17	Wilcox	11.59
Carroll	24.71	Early	23.54	Houston	36.12	Montgomery	26.02	Talbot	17.34	Wilkes	21.54
Catoosa	29.86	Echols	9.51	Irwin	15.82	Morgan	32.20	Taliaferro	13.34	Wilkinson	19.55
Charlton	14.02	Effingham	24.75	Jackson	26.50	Murray	12.22	Tattnall	14.80	Worth	15.53
Chatham	38.14	Elbert	18.46	Jasper	25.21	Muscogee	30.67	Taylor	12.61		
Chattahoochee	39.06	Emanuel	18.83	Jeff Davis	19.01	Newton	27.70	Telfair	15.97		
Chattooga	16.36	Evans	19.65	Jefferson	15.33	Oconee	54.16	Terrell	16.59		

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.

