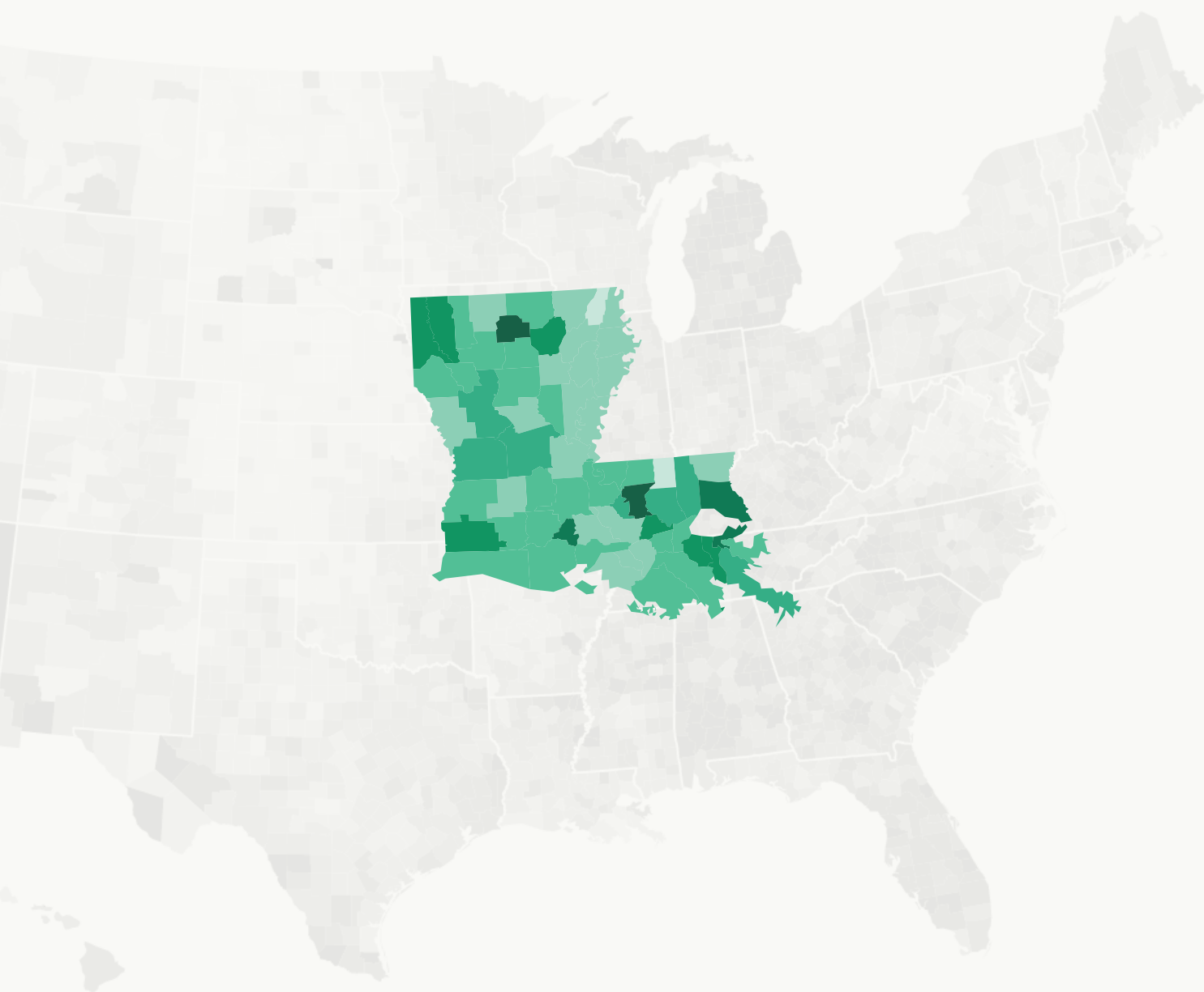


A STRONGER **LOUISIANA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Louisiana, 27.9 percent of the state's 2.4 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Louisiana's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was 28.2 percent. Also, Louisiana's rate of higher education attainment is far 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, however, some reason for optimism. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Louisiana, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 30.8 percent, considerably higher than that of the adult population as a whole. This suggests that young people in Louisiana are getting the message that higher education is important to their future. However, Louisiana's attainment rate among young adults is still well below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Clearly, Louisiana 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, about 33 percent of Louisiana's adult population — 749,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 2,289,726, Louisiana will need to add more than 625,000 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, 316,000 of the expected 634,000

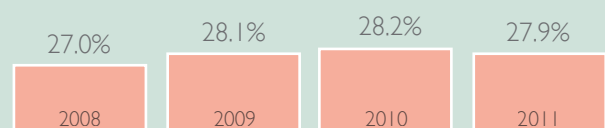
job vacancies in Louisiana will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 51 percent of all Louisiana jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 546,000 Louisiana adults — 22.7 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 Louisiana reach the 60 percent goal.

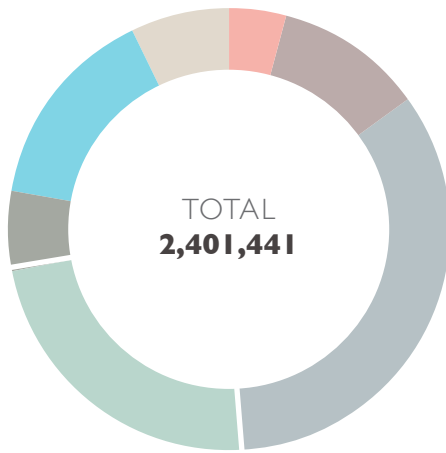
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Louisiana parish. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

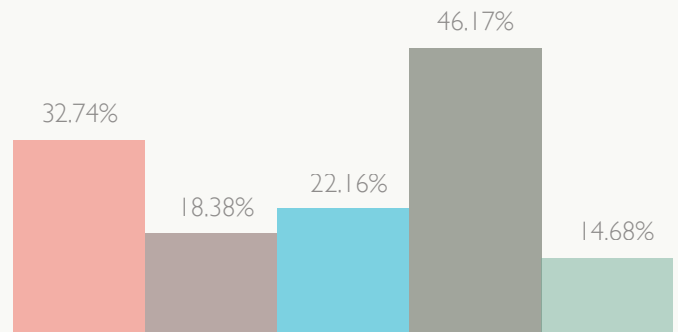


Less than ninth grade	103,514	4.31%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	262,271	10.92%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	820,676	34.17%
Some college, no degree	545,834	22.73%
Associate degree	140,554	5.85%
Bachelor's degree	360,792	15.02%
Graduate or professional degree	167,800	6.99%

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

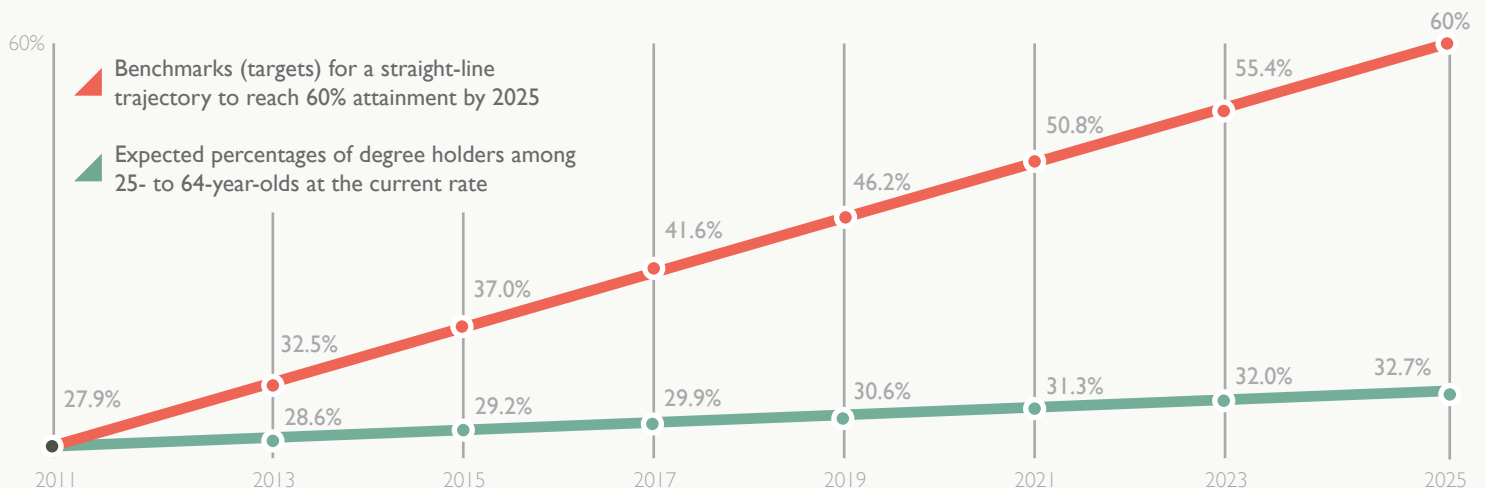
Degree-attainment rates among Louisiana adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	32.74%
Black	18.38%
Hispanic	22.16%
Asian	46.17%
Native American	14.68%



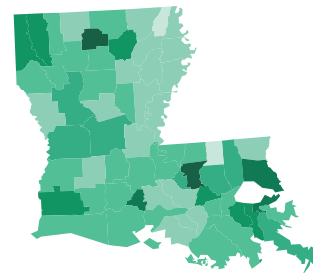
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Louisiana



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

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



Acadia	18.25	Claiborne	14.11	Jefferson Davis	18.02	Rapides	25.69	Tangipahoa	26.03
Allen	14.02	Concordia	14.49	Lafayette	33.83	Red River	20.16	Tensas	11.84
Ascension	30.20	De Soto	20.29	Lafourche	20.33	Richland	16.57	Terrebonne	17.89
Assumption	13.57	East Baton Rouge	39.55	La Salle	16.91	Sabine	16.05	Union	20.25
Avoyelles	15.46	East Carroll	13.46	Lincoln	39.22	St. Bernard	16.80	Vermilion	18.31
Beauregard	20.91	East Feliciana	17.23	Livingston	22.60	St. Charles	29.67	Vernon	24.46
Bienville	17.78	Evangeline	18.90	Madison	16.52	St. Helena	9.88	Washington	16.55
Bossier	32.77	Franklin	14.40	Morehouse	15.48	St. James	18.51	Webster	18.89
Caddo	29.49	Grant	14.43	Natchitoches	26.65	St. John the Baptist	21.72	West Baton Rouge	23.68
Calcasieu	27.98	Iberia	17.33	Orleans	38.20	St. Landry	18.55	West Carroll	10.44
Caldwell	15.03	Iberville	16.62	Ouachita	29.14	St. Martin	15.91	West Feliciana	17.83
Cameron	16.91	Jackson	18.89	Plaquemines	23.05	St. Mary	14.00	Winn	18.37
Catahoula	13.97	Jefferson	30.92	Pointe Coupee	19.82	St. Tammany	38.60		

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.

