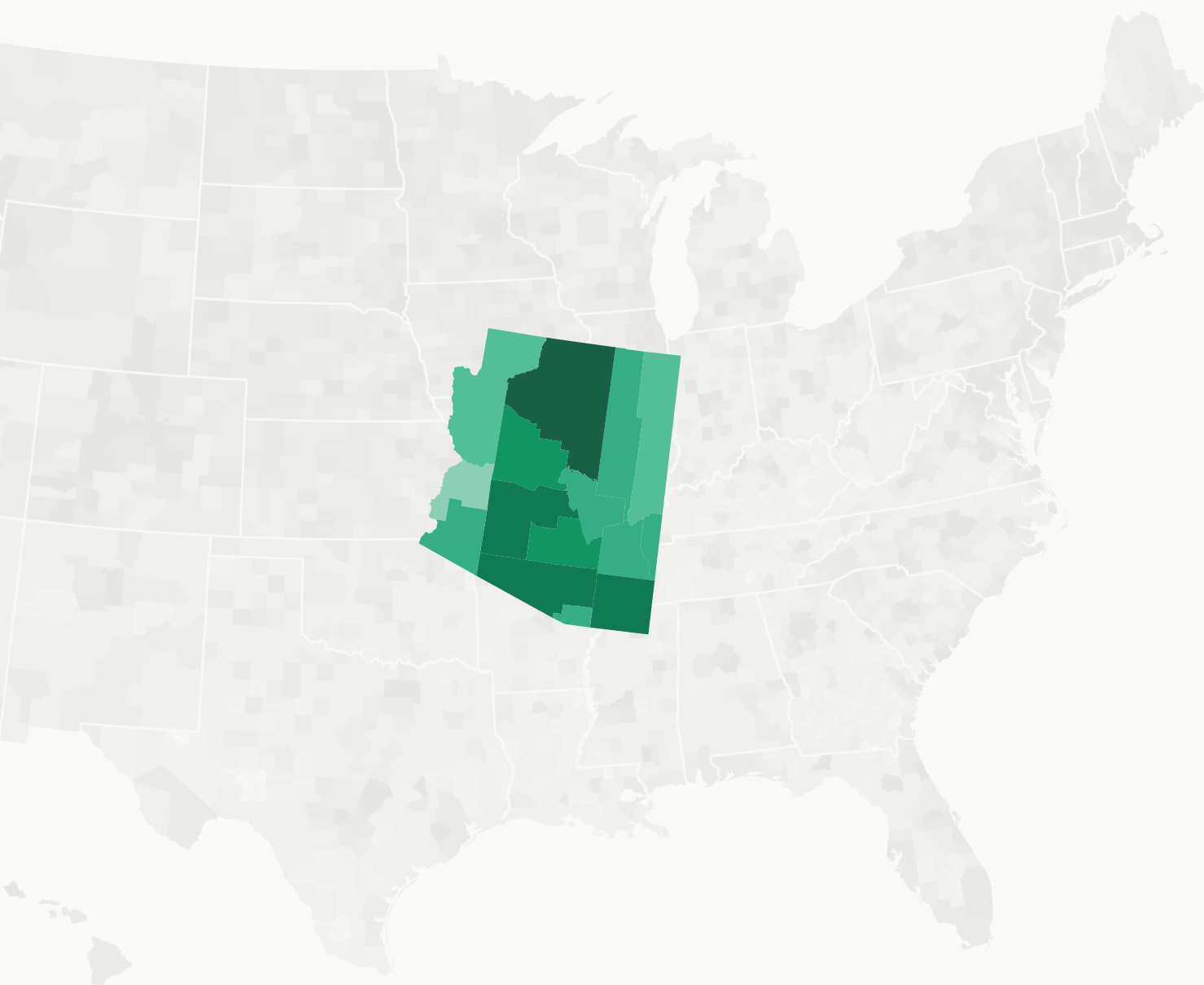


A STRONGER **ARIZONA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Arizona, 35.8 percent of the state's 3.3 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Arizona's attainment rate is increasing slowly; last year, the rate was 35.1 percent. Still, Arizona's rate of higher education attainment is well 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 also rising, but again, 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 Arizona. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Arizona, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at just 34.5 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole. What's more, Arizona's attainment rate among young adults is below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Arizona 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 40 percent of Arizona's adult population — 1.8 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 4,370,192, Arizona will need to add more than 856,000 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, 554,000 of the expected 907,000 job

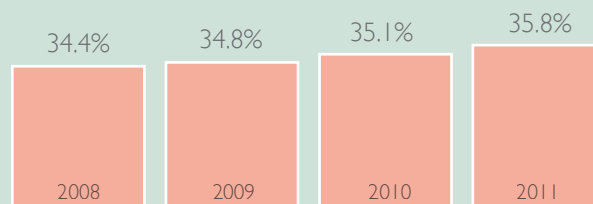
vacancies in Arizona will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 61 percent of all Arizona jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 882,000 Arizona adults — 26.8 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 Arizona reach the 60 percent goal.

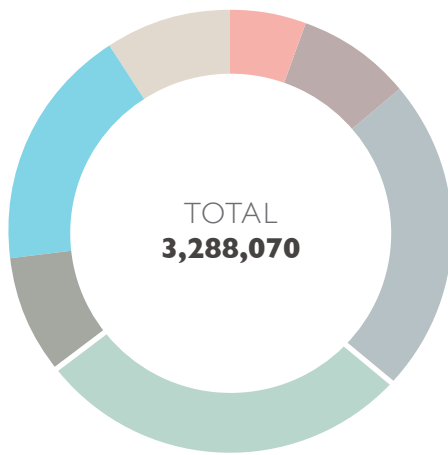
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Arizona county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so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

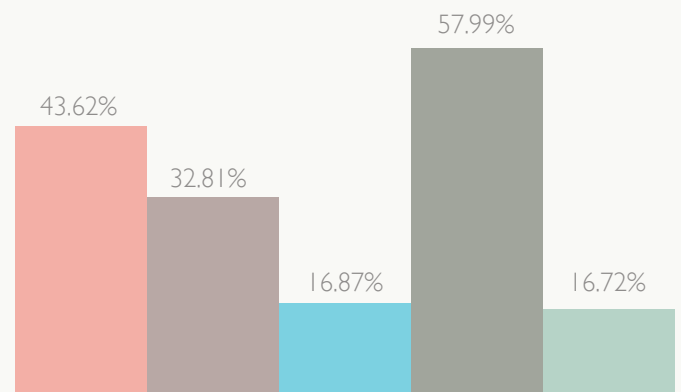


Less than ninth grade	184,668	5.62%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	274,331	8.34%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	771,483	23.46%
Some college, no degree	881,651	26.81%
Associate degree	294,538	8.96%
Bachelor's degree	581,397	17.68%
Graduate or professional degree	300,002	9.12%

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

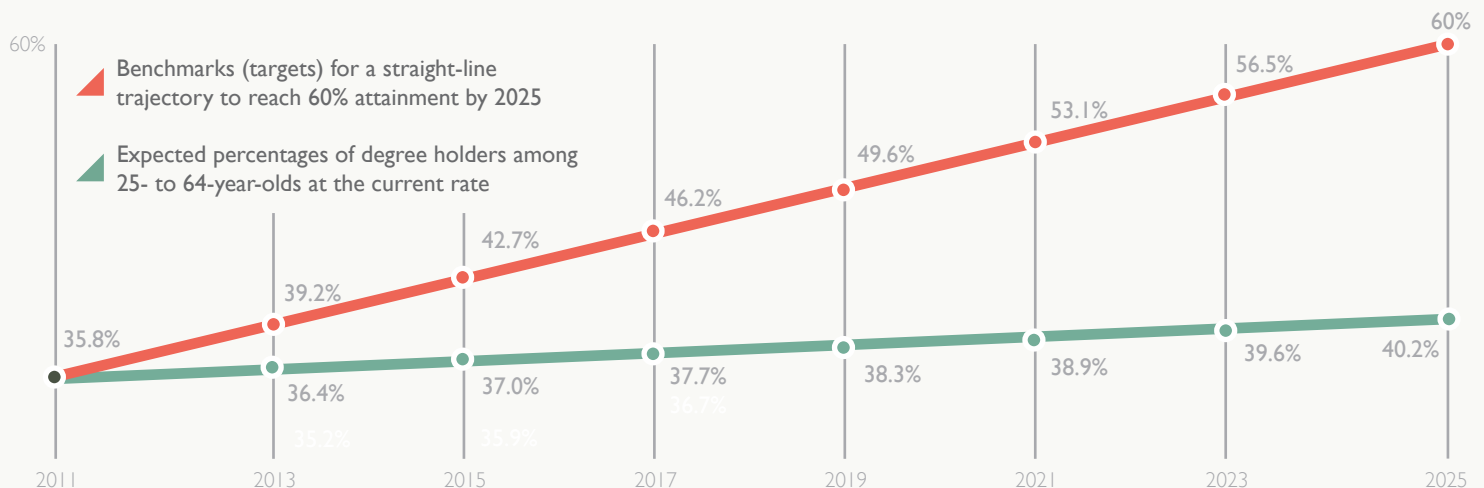
Degree-attainment rates among Arizona adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	43.62%
Black	32.81%
Hispanic	16.87%
Asian	57.99%
Native American	16.72%



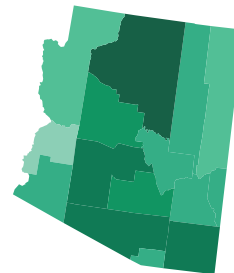
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Arizona



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

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



Apache	19.26	Gila	24.84	La Paz	14.68	Navajo	24.03	Santa Cruz	22.49
Cochise	33.43	Graham	23.35	Maricopa	38.49	Pima	38.43	Yavapai	32.14
Coconino	40.49	Greenlee	22.41	Mohave	21.11	Pinal	27.82	Yuma	22.53

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.

