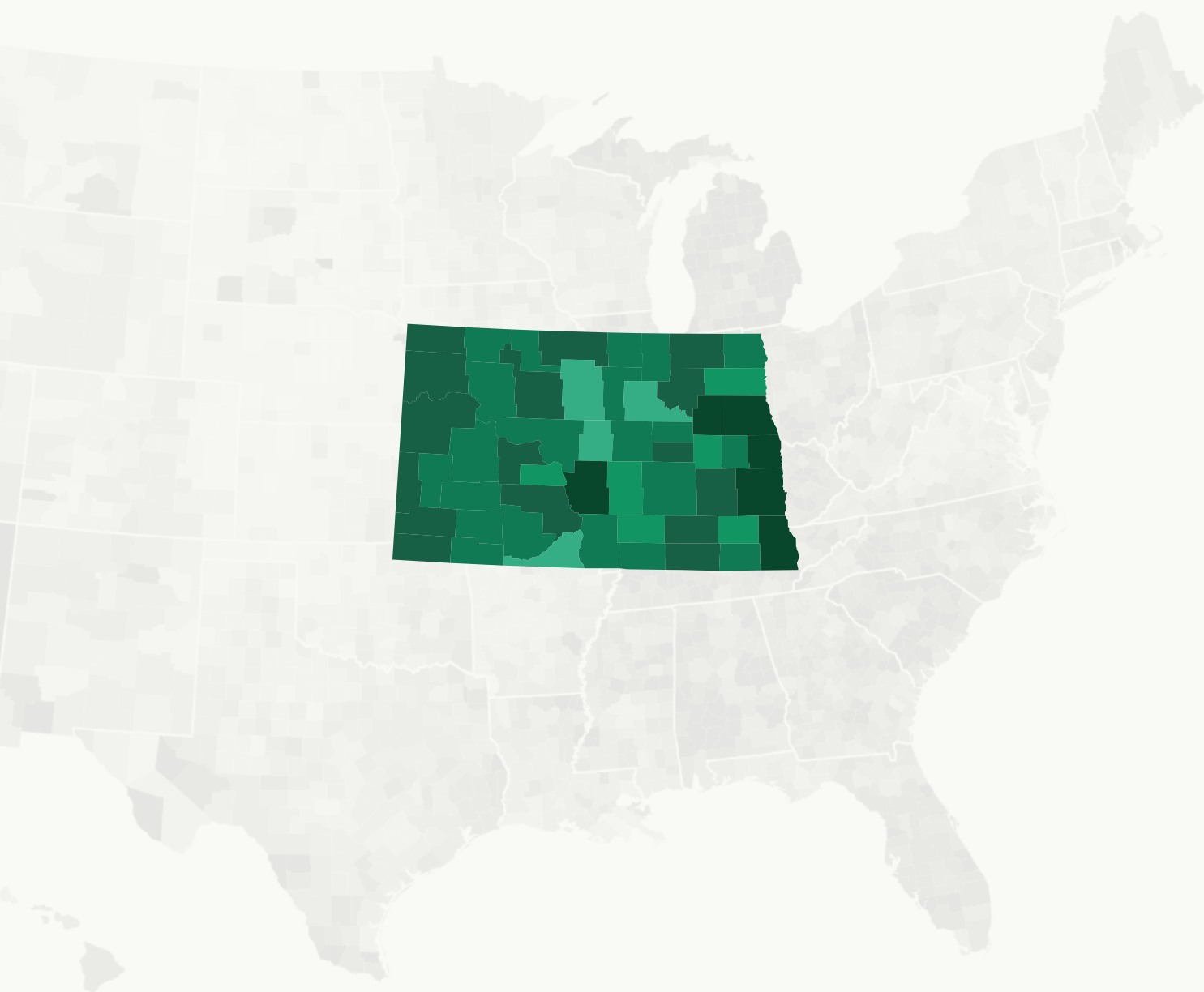


A STRONGER **NORTH DAKOTA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



Efforts to boost college attainment in North Dakota are key to achieving Goal 2025

In North Dakota, 44.7 percent of the state's 350,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. North Dakota's attainment rate is actually declining; last year, the rate was 44.9 percent. Still, North Dakota's rate of higher education attainment is 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.

There is also some reason for optimism about the educational trends in North Dakota. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In North Dakota, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 50.4 percent — higher than that of the adult population as a whole, and well above the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Clearly, there is room for improvement in North Dakota. In this state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, 54.2 percent of North Dakota's adult population — 156,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 288,136, North Dakota will need to add nearly 17,000 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, 80,000 of the expected

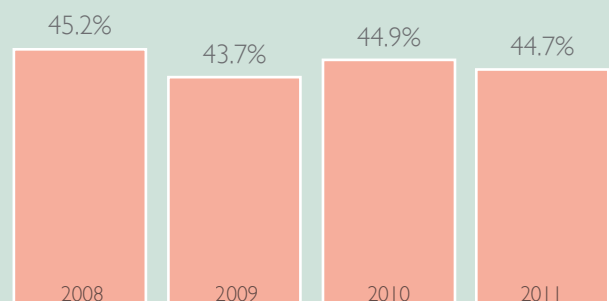
120,000 job vacancies in North Dakota will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 70 percent of all North Dakota jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

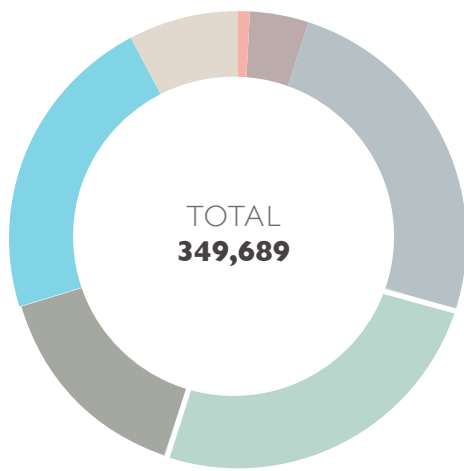
The state's economic future can surely be bolstered by producing more college graduates — and an excellent place to begin is with those who have attended college but not earned a credential. In 2011, more than 88,000 North Dakota adults — 25.2 percent of the adult population — had gone to college but lacked either a two- or four-year degree. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way toward helping North Dakota 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 North Dakota 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. North Dakota 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 North Dakota'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





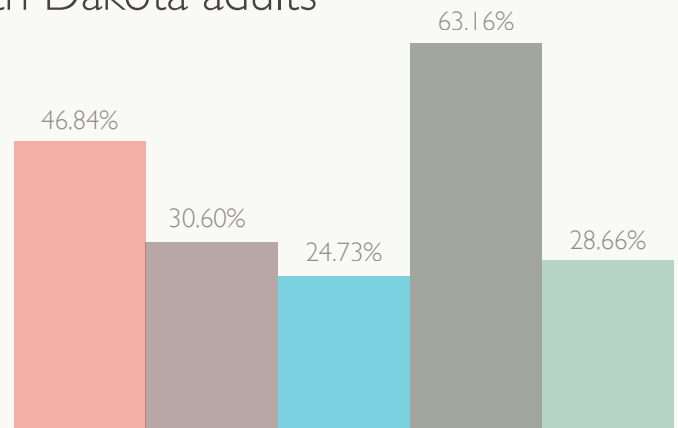
Levels of education for North Dakota adults (ages 25-64)

Less than ninth grade	3,611	1.03%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	14,110	4.04%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	87,515	25.03%
Some college, no degree	88,082	25.19%
Associate degree	53,254	15.23%
Bachelor's degree	76,848	21.98%
Graduate or professional degree	26,269	7.51%

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

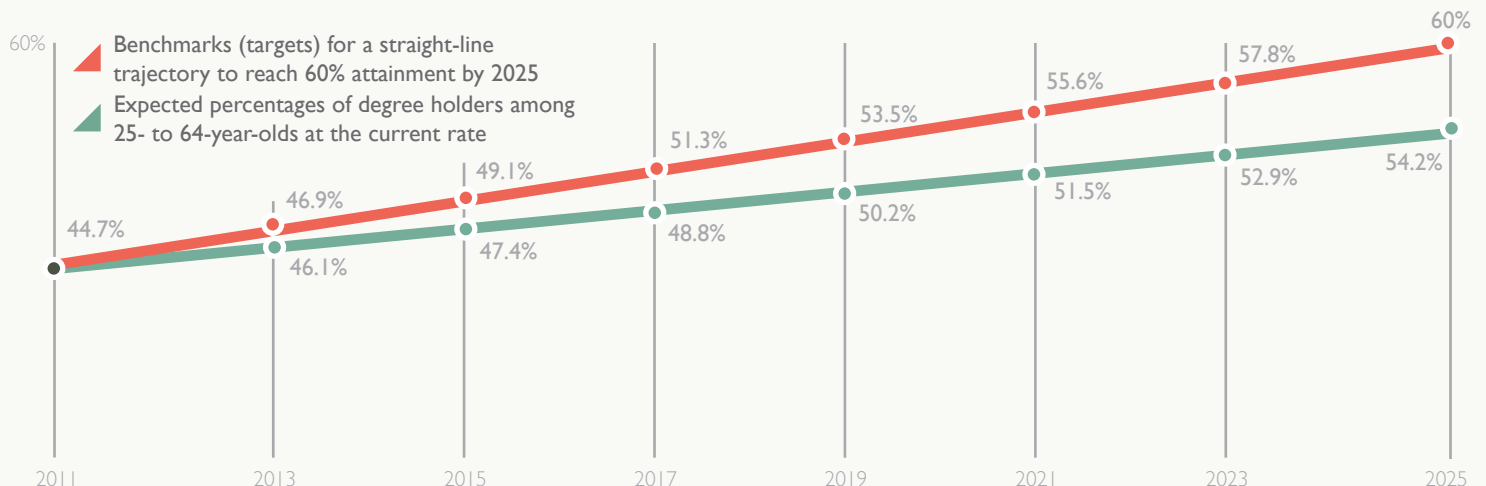
Degree-attainment rates among North Dakota adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	46.84%
Black	30.60%
Hispanic	24.73%
Asian	63.16%
Native American	28.66%



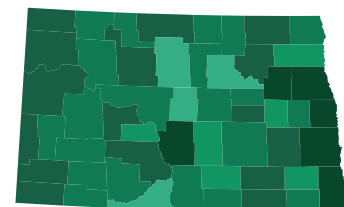
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in North Dakota



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

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



Adams	33.98	Cavalier	43.26	Grant	36.47	McLean	38.39	Ransom	33.00	Steele	35.32
Barnes	43.10	Dickey	44.36	Griggs	33.01	Mercer	43.11	Renville	35.84	Stutsman	37.25
Benson	26.75	Divide	41.19	Hettinger	35.80	Morton	40.35	Richland	44.85	Towner	36.81
Billings	36.29	Dunn	35.84	Kidder	31.65	Mountrail	35.82	Rolette	38.68	Traill	48.43
Bottineau	43.74	Eddy	38.64	LaMoure	42.86	Nelson	47.23	Sargent	35.21	Walsh	32.69
Bowman	39.65	Emmons	35.71	Logan	28.93	Oliver	32.00	Sheridan	25.95	Ward	41.90
Burke	36.18	Foster	43.90	McHenry	26.33	Pembina	36.12	Sioux	26.78	Wells	38.16
Burleigh	52.05	Golden Valley	41.99	McIntosh	35.69	Pierce	35.99	Slope	41.46	Williams	39.38
Cass	53.04	Grand Forks	48.10	McKenzie	40.78	Ramsey	40.60	Stark	38.73		

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.

