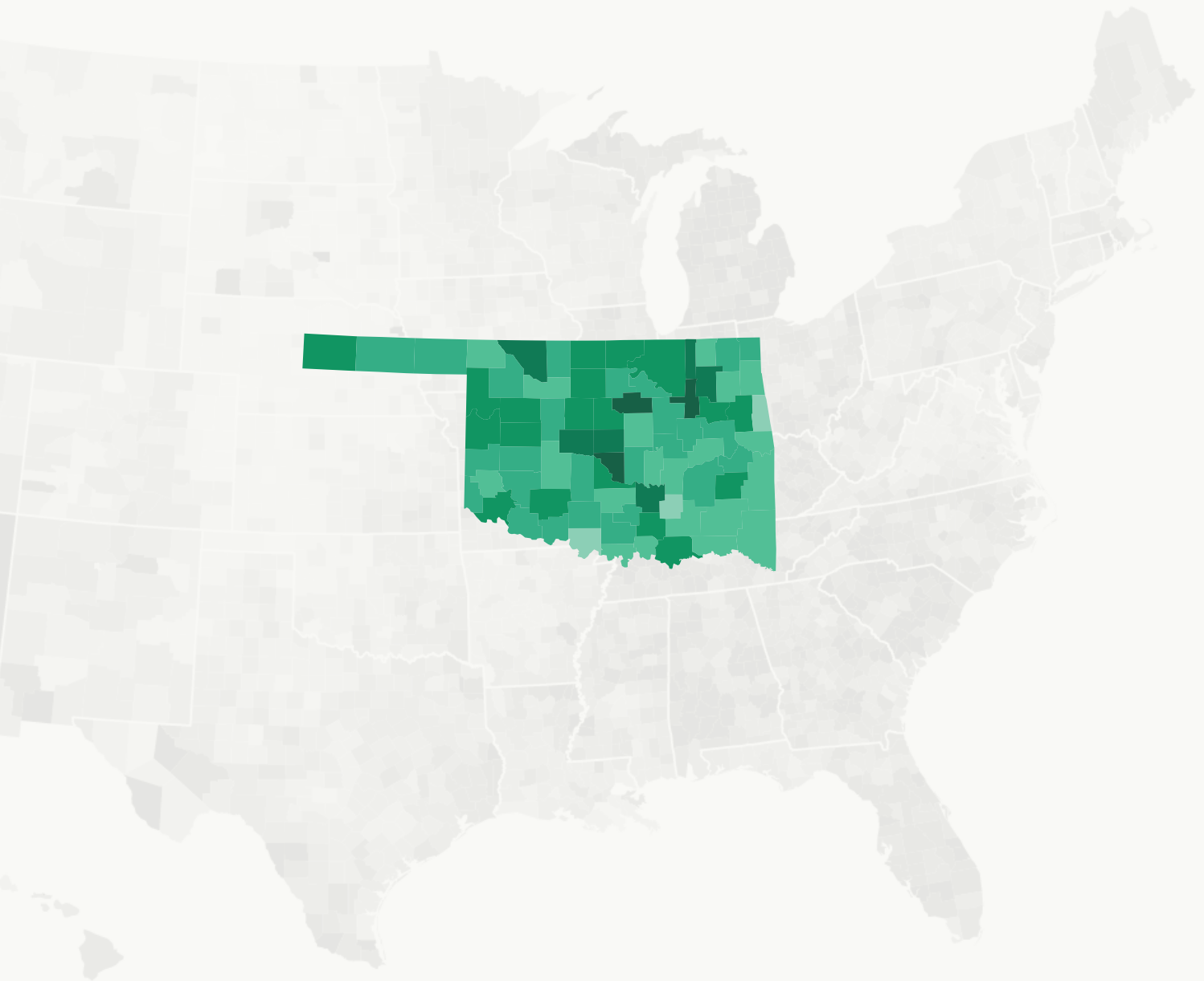


A STRONGER **OKLAHOMA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Oklahoma, 33 percent of the state's 1.95 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Oklahoma's attainment rate is increasing; last year, the rate was 31.7 percent. Still, Oklahoma'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 Oklahoma. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Oklahoma, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 33.2 percent — only slightly higher than that of the adult population as a whole, and well below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Clearly, Oklahoma 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 39 percent of Oklahoma's adult population — 703,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 1,801,805, Oklahoma will need to add more than 378,000 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, 308,000 of the expected 541,000

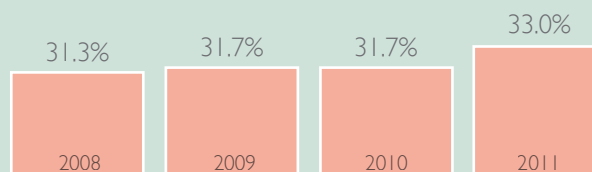
job vacancies in Oklahoma will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 57 percent of all Oklahoma jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 482,000 Oklahoma adults — 24.7 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 Oklahoma reach the 60 percent goal.

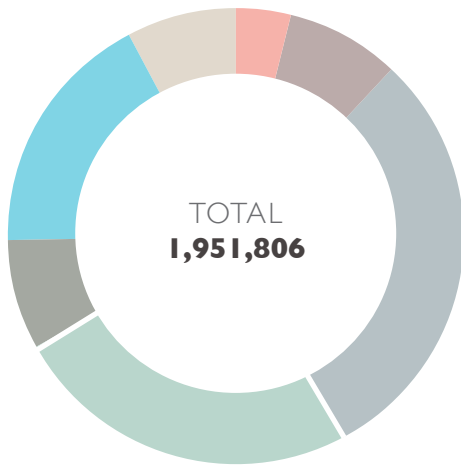
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Oklahoma county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

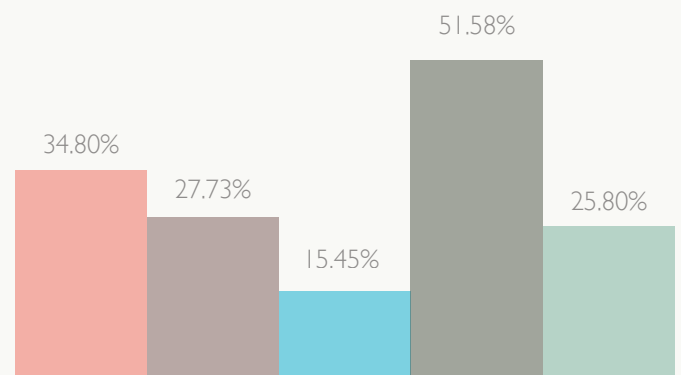


Less than ninth grade	76,753	3.93%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	159,346	8.16%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	590,231	30.24%
Some college, no degree	482,105	24.70%
Associate degree	153,067	7.84%
Bachelor's degree	340,530	17.45%
Graduate or professional degree	149,774	7.67%

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

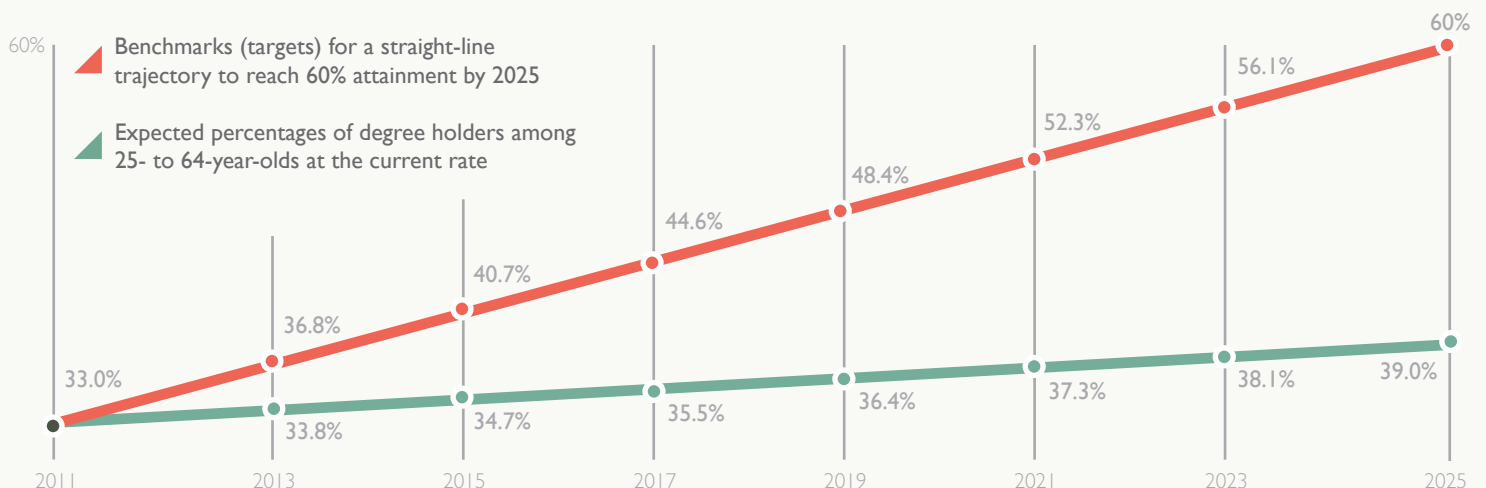
Degree-attainment rates among Oklahoma adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	34.80%
Black	27.73%
Hispanic	15.45%
Asian	51.58%
Native American	25.80%



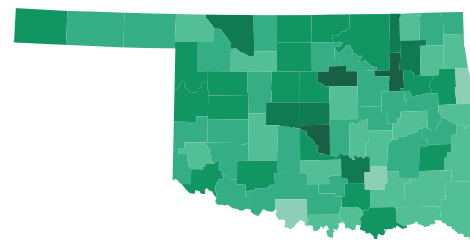
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Oklahoma



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

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



Adair	15.76	Cleveland	40.37	Grant	31.29	Le Flore	21.45	Nowata	20.14	Rogers	34.27
Alfalfa	23.66	Coal	15.64	Greer	21.54	Lincoln	20.18	Okfuskee	22.31	Seminole	21.95
Atoka	19.06	Comanche	28.17	Harmon	25.23	Logan	30.63	Oklahoma	36.55	Sequoyah	21.23
Beaver	25.66	Cotton	23.45	Harper	20.38	Love	20.09	Okmulgee	26.12	Stephens	23.41
Beckham	23.66	Craig	22.51	Haskell	23.61	McClain	27.82	Osage	27.81	Texas	25.49
Blaine	24.81	Creek	23.76	Hughes	17.81	McCurtain	20.20	Ottawa	25.56	Tillman	23.78
Bryan	30.40	Custer	29.79	Jackson	32.80	McIntosh	20.65	Pawnee	26.04	Tulsa	39.58
Caddo	18.86	Delaware	21.54	Jefferson	15.33	Major	21.21	Payne	42.39	Wagoner	31.79
Canadian	35.96	Dewey	27.83	Johnston	31.22	Marshall	21.79	Pittsburg	25.87	Washington	35.39
Carter	24.13	Ellis	30.49	Kay	29.61	Mayes	22.07	Pontotoc	33.39	Washita	23.44
Cherokee	29.61	Garfield	30.66	Kingfisher	29.09	Murray	25.20	Pottawatomie	26.23	Woods	34.40
Choctaw	19.17	Garvin	20.60	Kiowa	24.46	Muskogee	26.52	Pushmataha	19.45	Woodward	23.52
Cimarron	31.53	Grady	24.86	Latimer	30.54	Noble	27.45	Roger Mills	28.66		

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.

