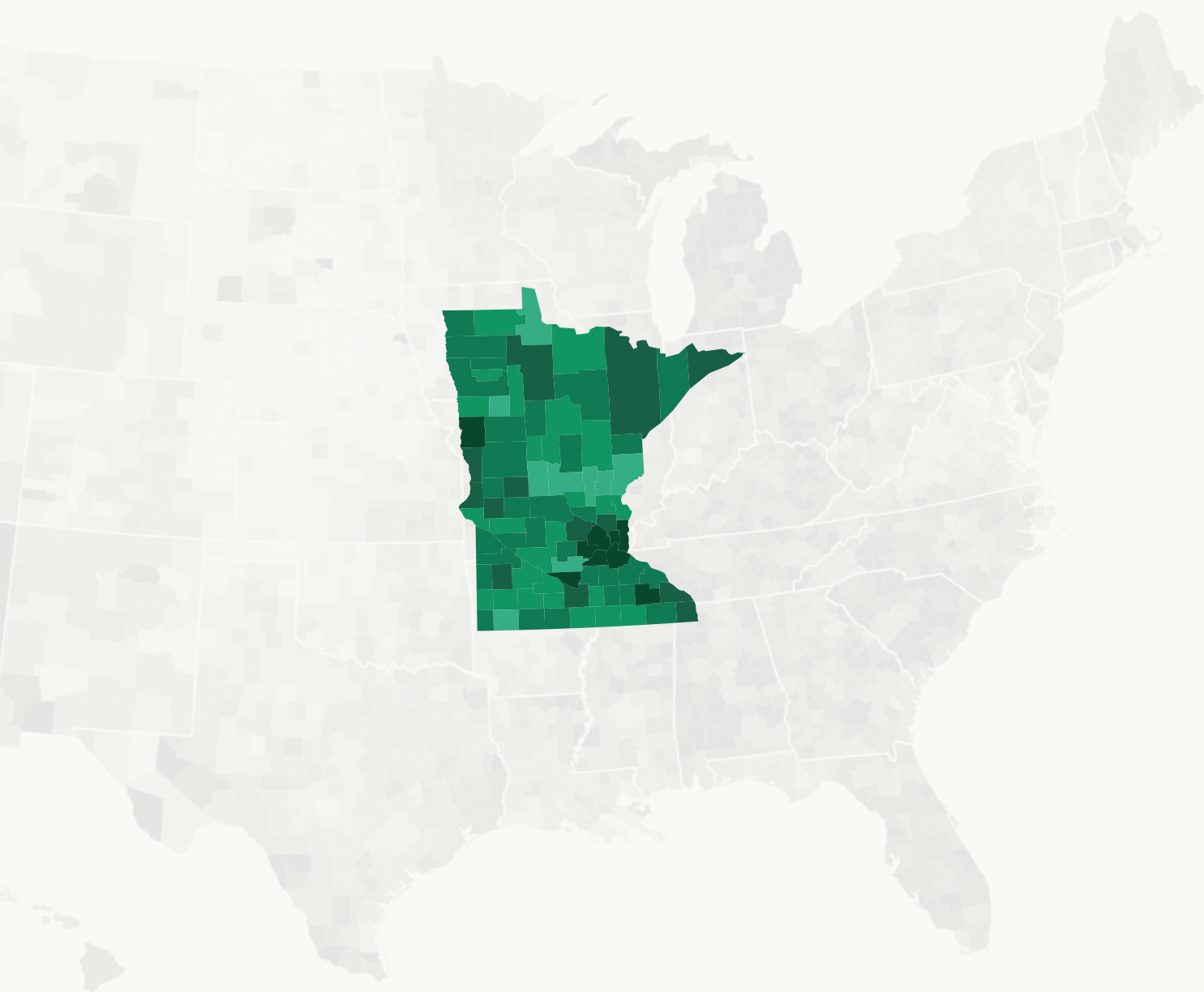


A STRONGER MINNESOTA *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Minnesota, 46.6 percent of the state's 2.9 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Minnesota's attainment rate is increasing slowly; last year, the rate was 45.8 percent. Minnesota's rate of higher education attainment is well 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 reason for optimism about the educational trends in Minnesota. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Minnesota, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 50.8 percent — higher than that of the adult population as a whole, and well above the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Despite its relative success, there is room for improvement in Minnesota. In this state and nationally, college attainment rates must increase to reach 60 percent by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, about 58 percent of Minnesota's adult population — 1.7 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 3,057,199, Minnesota will need to add more than 131,000 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, 620,000 of the expected 902,000

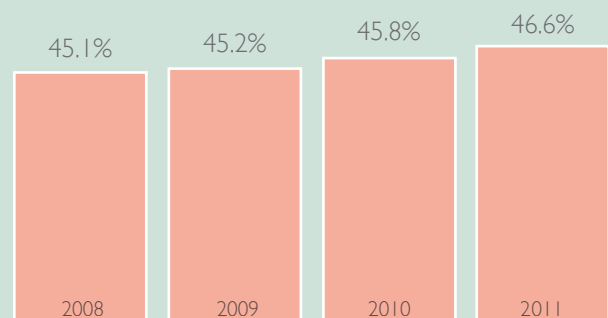
job vacancies in Minnesota will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 70 percent of all Minnesota jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 660,000 Minnesota adults — 23.1 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 Minnesota reach the 60 percent goal.

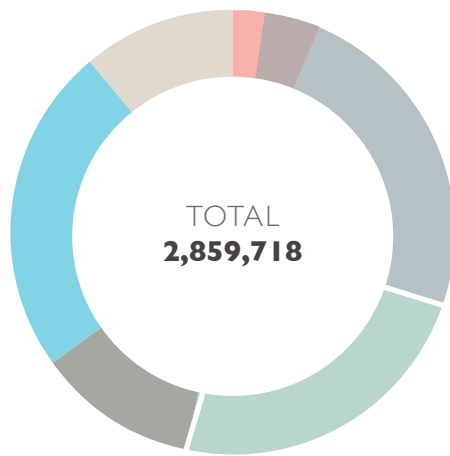
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Minnesota county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties,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

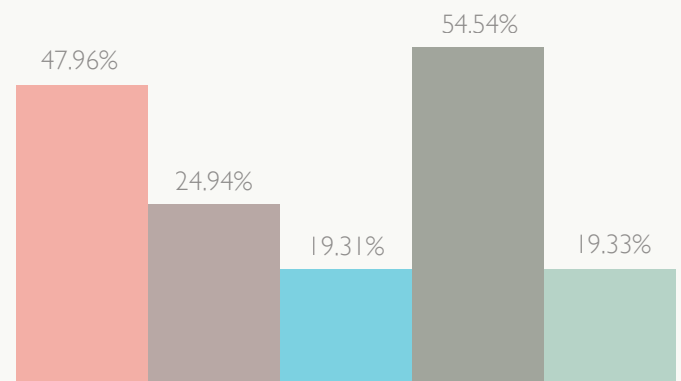


Less than ninth grade	63,116	<b>2.21%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	116,409	<b>4.07%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	687,720	<b>24.05%</b>
Some college, no degree	660,472	<b>23.10%</b>
Associate degree	337,767	<b>11.81%</b>
Bachelor's degree	679,231	<b>23.75%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	315,003	<b>11.02%</b>

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

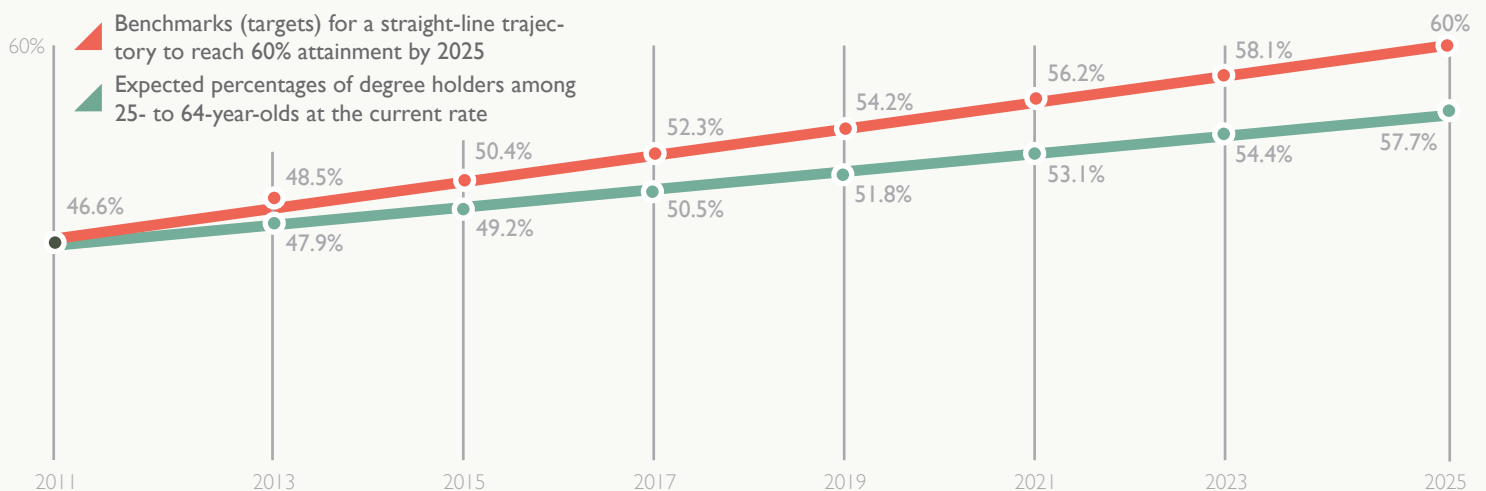
## Degree-attainment rates among Minnesota adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>47.96%</b>
Black	<b>29.94%</b>
Hispanic	<b>19.31%</b>
Asian	<b>54.54%</b>
Native American	<b>19.33%</b>



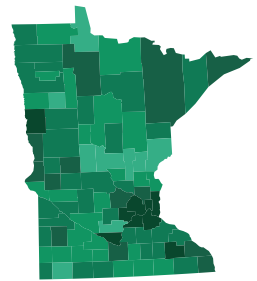
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Minnesota



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

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



Aitkin	29.40	Dakota	52.16	Lac qui Parle	36.25	Olmsted	55.05	Stearns	38.58
Anoka	39.86	Dodge	38.85	Lake	34.91	Otter Tail	37.76	Steele	38.64
Becker	36.03	Douglas	43.43	Lake of the Woods	27.27	Pennington	34.40	Stevens	43.04
Beltrami	40.64	Faribault	31.61	Le Sueur	33.80	Pine	22.99	Swift	29.36
Benton	32.91	Fillmore	34.97	Lincoln	35.01	Pipestone	30.52	Todd	24.91
Big Stone	33.09	Freeborn	30.14	Lyon	39.45	Polk	38.37	Traverse	41.23
Blue Earth	43.91	Goodhue	38.43	McLeod	36.24	Pope	38.18	Wabasha	34.48
Brown	32.08	Grant	35.24	Mahnomen	25.98	Ramsey	49.54	Wadena	30.88
Carlton	37.10	Hennepin	55.89	Marshall	34.27	Red Lake	28.96	Waseca	30.79
Carver	56.71	Houston	41.82	Martin	34.38	Redwood	29.63	Washington	53.75
Cass	30.81	Hubbard	35.73	Meeker	31.23	Renville	30.61	Watonwan	28.39
Chippewa	34.35	Isanti	28.36	Mille Lacs	27.11	Rice	37.52	Wilkin	40.95
Chisago	32.47	Itasca	35.30	Morrison	27.64	Rock	34.20	Winona	41.21
Clay	47.20	Jackson	36.06	Mower	32.37	Roseau	28.48	Wright	40.45
Clearwater	31.01	Kanabec	25.10	Murray	30.91	St. Louis	40.67	Yellow Medicine	33.91
Cook	41.25	Kandiyohi	38.61	Nicollet	47.32	Scott	50.02		
Cottonwood	30.12	Kittson	37.37	Nobles	27.68	Sherburne	38.66		
Crow Wing	37.95	Koochiching	30.26	Norman	32.59	Sibley	25.70		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-11 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates