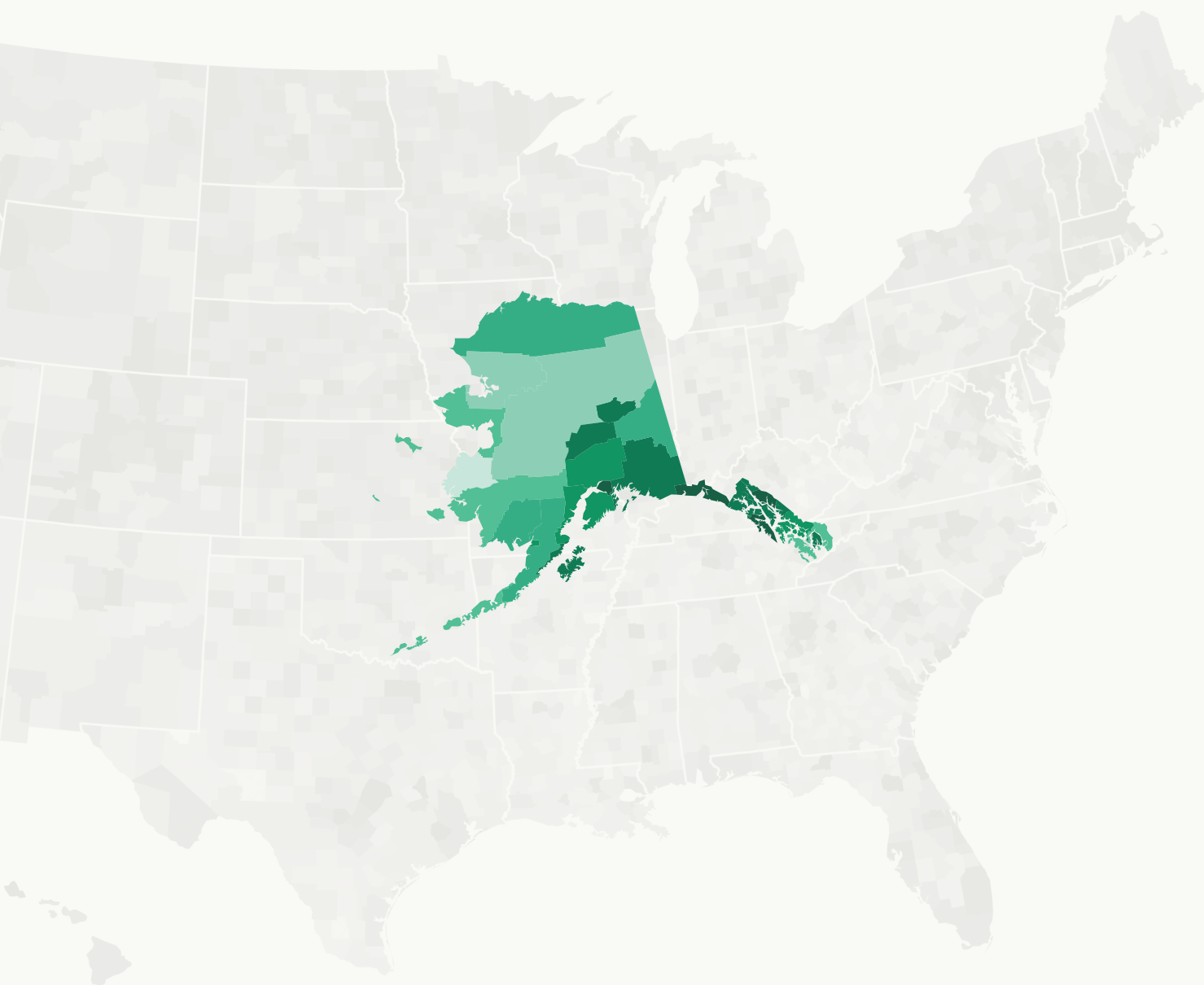


A STRONGER **ALASKA** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Alaska, 34.4 percent of the state's 398,000 working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Alaska's attainment rate is actually declining; last year, the rate was 37.3 percent. Also, Alaska'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 rising, but 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 Alaska. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Alaska, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at just 31.9 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole. What's more, Alaska's attainment rate among young adults is well below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Alaska 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 36 percent of Alaska's adult population — 141,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 391,697, Alaska will need to add nearly 94,000 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, 65,000 of the expected 104,000 job

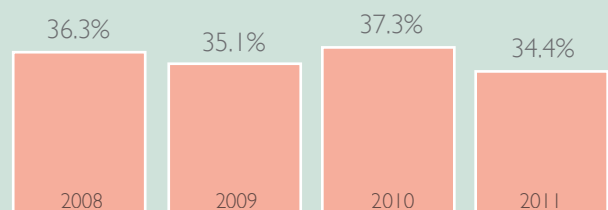
vacancies in Alaska will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed, 63 percent of all Alaska jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 121,000 Alaska adults — 30.4 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 Alaska reach the 60 percent goal.

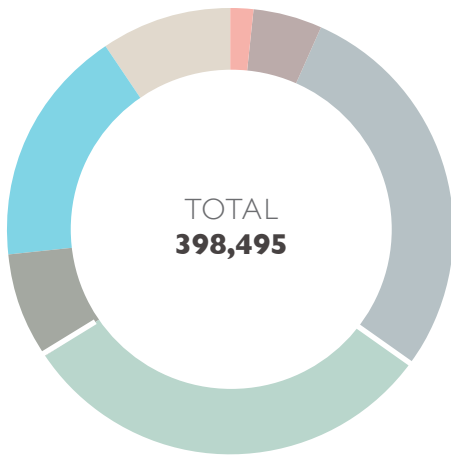
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Alaska borough. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so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

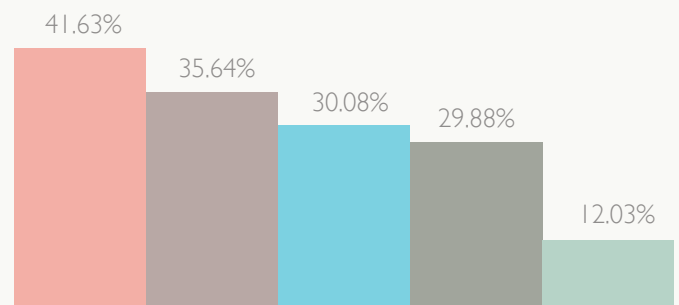


Less than ninth grade	7,276	1.83%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	19,502	4.89%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	113,520	28.49%
Some college, no degree	121,037	30.37%
Associate degree	31,380	7.87%
Bachelor's degree	68,837	17.27%
Graduate or professional degree	36,943	9.27%

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

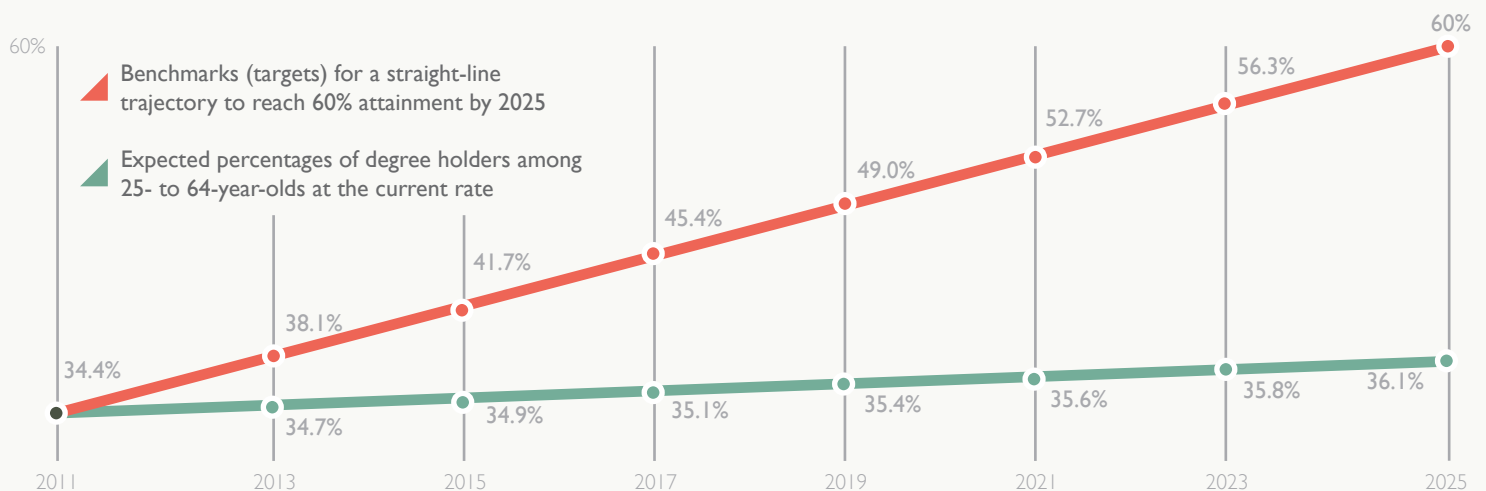
Degree-attainment rates among Alaska adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	41.63%
Black	35.64%
Hispanic	30.08%
Asian	29.88%
Native American	12.03%



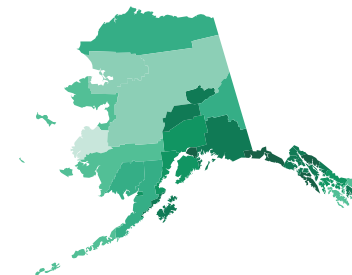
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Alaska



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

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



Aleutians East Borough	20.79	Juneau City and Borough	42.25	Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	21.93
Aleutians West Census Area	17.00	Kenai Peninsula Borough	30.73	Sitka City and Borough	44.03
Anchorage Municipality	41.95	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	35.59	Skagway Municipality	34.99
Bethel Census Area	17.09	Kodiak Island Borough	35.46	Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	26.68
Bristol Bay Borough	28.82	Lake and Peninsula Borough	26.03	Valdez-Cordova Census Area	34.11
Denali Borough	35.86	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	31.17	Wade Hampton Census Area	9.76
Dillingham Census Area	25.67	Nome Census Area	21.10	Wrangell City and Borough	32.00
Fairbanks North Star Borough	37.41	North Slope Borough	23.36	Yakutat City and Borough	39.78
Haines Borough	37.71	Northwest Arctic Borough	15.74	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	16.23
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	36.59	Petersburg Census Area	34.90		

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