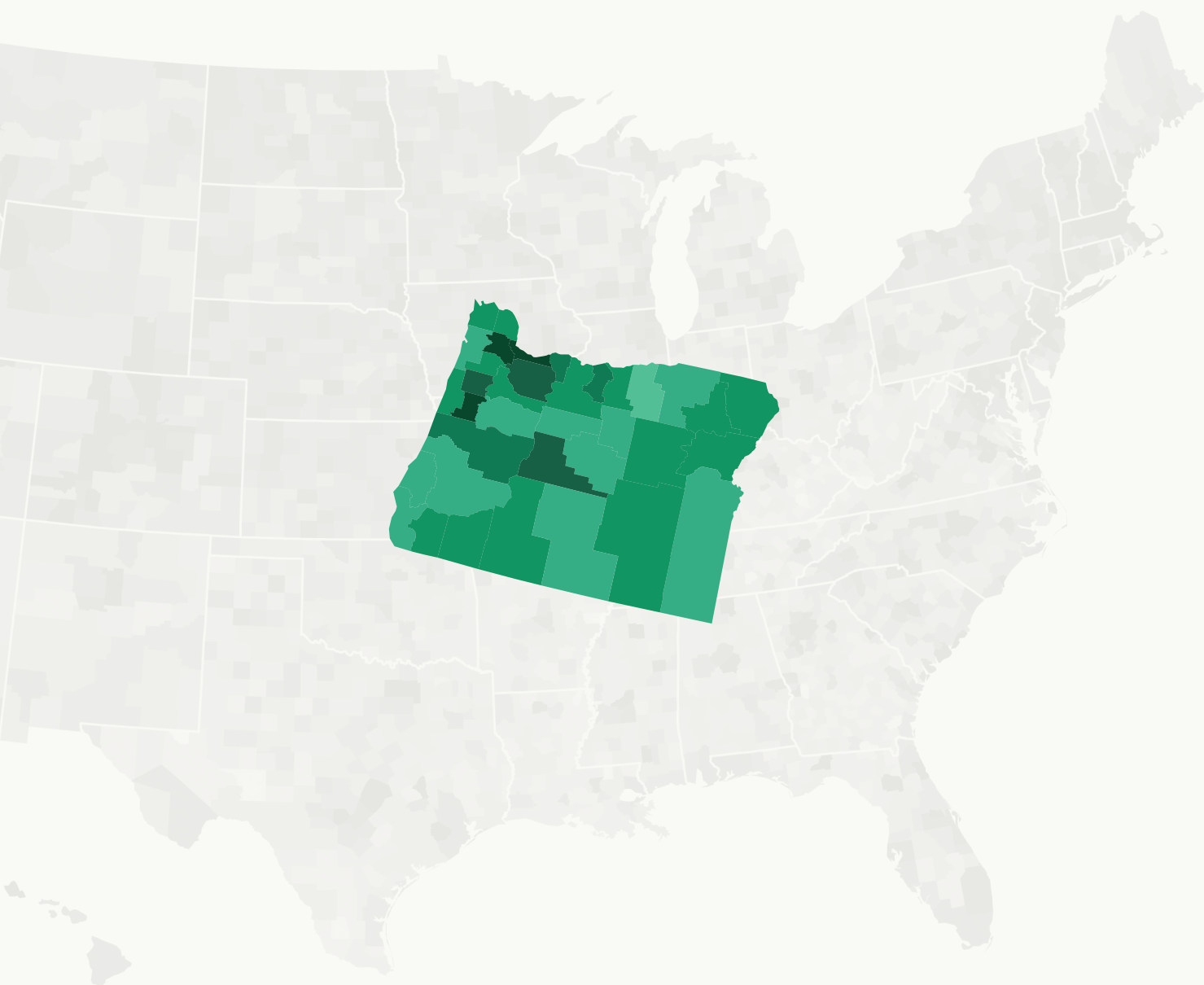


A STRONGER **OREGON** *through* HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Oregon, 39 percent of the state's 2.1 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold a two- or four-year college degree, according to 2011 Census data. Oregon's attainment rate is essentially flat; last year, the rate was 38.6 percent. Also, Oregon's rate of higher education attainment is on par with 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 Oregon. The best indicator of where attainment rates are heading is the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34. In Oregon, 2011 Census data put the attainment rate of these young adults at 38 percent, lower than that of the adult population as a whole. What's more, Oregon's attainment rate among young adults is below the national rate of 40.1 percent.

Oregon 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, 45 percent of Oregon's adult population — 1.1 million people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent attainment among its projected 2025 population of 2,300,541, Oregon will need to add nearly 352,000 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, 377,000 of the expected 591,000 job vacancies in Oregon will require postsecondary credentials. Indeed,

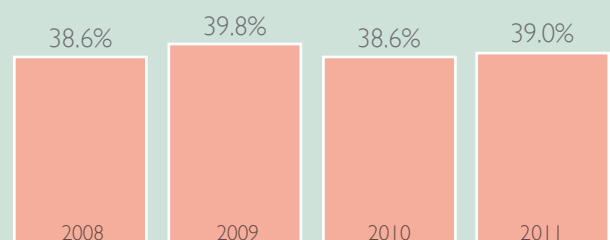
64 percent of all Oregon jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018.

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 567,000 Oregon adults — 27.1 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 Oregon reach the 60 percent goal.

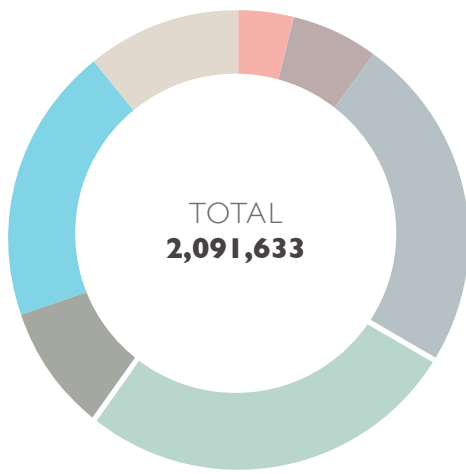
To increase attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps based on race, income, geography and other factors. As in past years, this report lists an attainment rate for each Oregon county. The data show that increasing attainment is a particular challenge in rural counties, so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

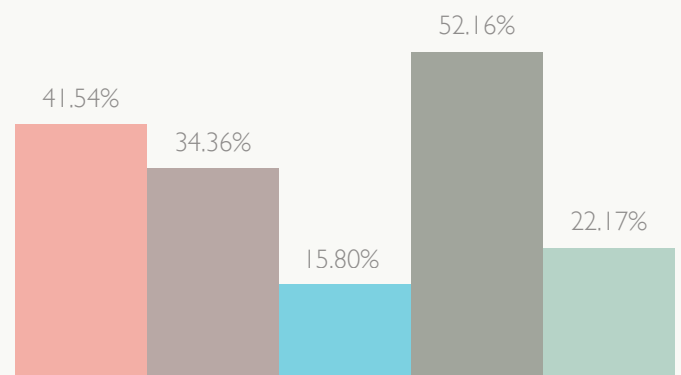


Less than ninth grade	81,400	<b>3.89%</b>
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	128,267	<b>6.13%</b>
High school graduate (including equivalency)	498,721	<b>23.84%</b>
Some college, no degree	567,307	<b>27.12%</b>
Associate degree	186,128	<b>8.90%</b>
Bachelor's degree	404,798	<b>19.35%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	225,012	<b>10.76%</b>

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

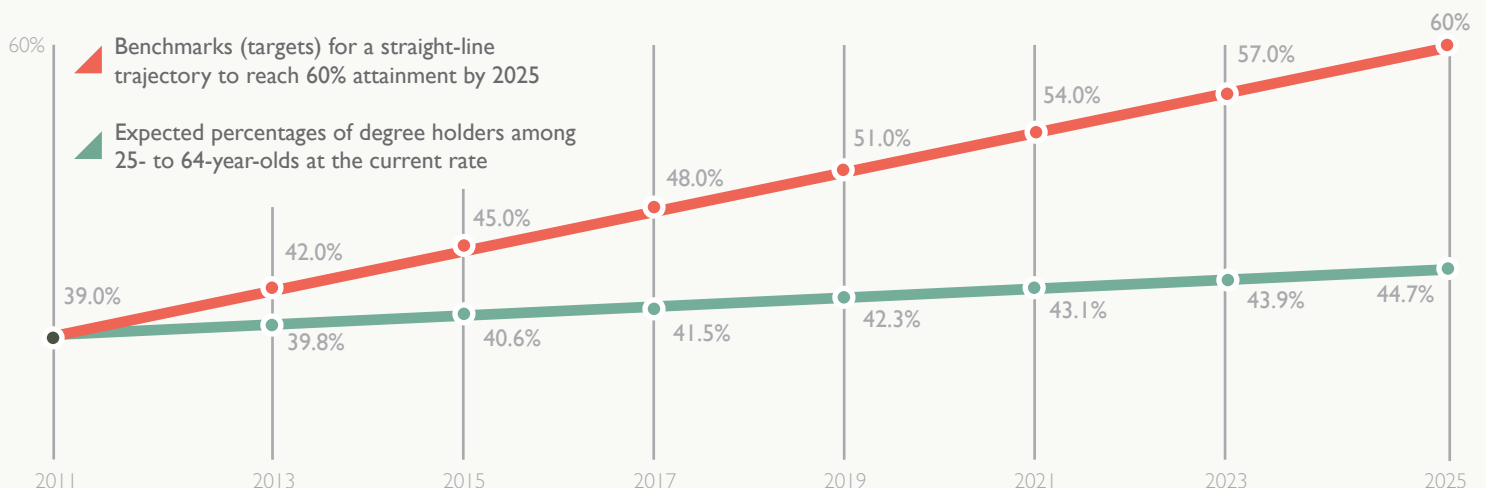
## Degree-attainment rates among Oregon adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	<b>41.54%</b>
Black	<b>34.36%</b>
Hispanic	<b>15.80%</b>
Asian	<b>52.16%</b>
Native American	<b>22.17%</b>



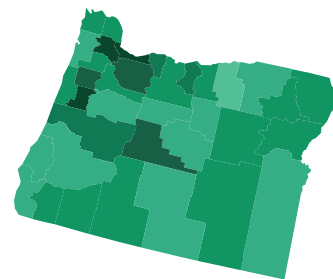
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-11 American Community Survey PUMS File

## The path to 60% degree attainment in Oregon



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

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



Baker	32.39	Crook	24.23	Harney	28.11	Lake	25.99	Morrow	20.02	Union	33.09
Benton	56.96	Curry	25.77	Hood River	34.93	Lane	38.34	Multnomah	47.29	Wallowa	33.08
Clackamas	41.65	Deschutes	41.53	Jackson	31.64	Lincoln	30.87	Polk	38.90	Wasco	32.12
Clatsop	31.44	Douglas	26.69	Jefferson	24.53	Linn	27.71	Sherman	34.16	Washington	49.88
Columbia	28.44	Gilliam	32.07	Josephine	29.89	Malheur	22.51	Tillamook	23.75	Wheeler	24.32
Coos	26.94	Grant	32.15	Klamath	31.10	Marion	30.61	Umatilla	25.92	Yamhill	31.07

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.

