

A stronger nation through higher education — and Michigan's role in that effort

In Michigan, more than 35 percent of the state's 5.3 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2008 Census data. This compares to a national average of around 38 percent. Attainment rates in Michigan are increasing modestly, even though the proportion of degree-holding young adults — those 25-34 years old — mirrors that of the overall adult population. If Michigan continues to increase attainment at the rate it did over the last decade (2000-2008), the state will have a college-attainment rate of 43 percent in 2025 — far short of the Big Goal of 60 percent.

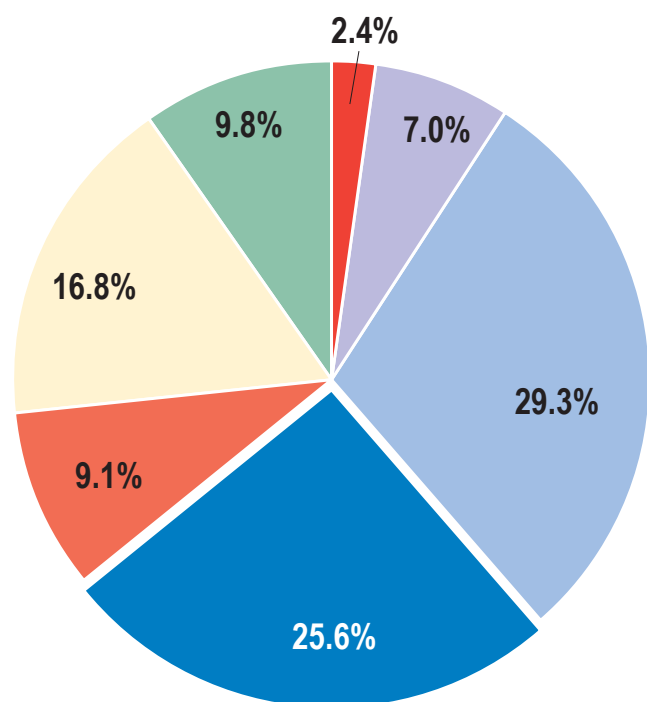
However, this gap *can* be closed. The key is to begin increasing degree production, and to continue to increase it each year until 2025. By increasing production by 9,722 associate or bachelor's degrees each year between now and 2025 — an annual increase of 6.3 percent — Michigan will reach the Big Goal.

One excellent place to begin looking for these additional graduates is in the ranks of Michigan residents who have completed some college without earning a degree. In 2008, nearly 1.4 million Michigan residents fit into this category

— representing more than 25 percent of the state's adult population. If only a small portion of this group could be enticed to return to college to complete either a two- or four-year degree, it would go a long way to helping Michigan reach the goal of 60 percent higher education attainment.

Also, by looking at the geographic distribution of college graduates within the state (see chart on reverse), policymakers and other stakeholders can begin to work strategically and systematically to close achievement gaps. They can target counties and regions that show the greatest need and focus their efforts on those specific areas.

How do we know that Michigan's economy will demand more college graduates? A recent analysis by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce provides the answer. According to the center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 62 percent of Michigan's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Michigan will need to fill about 1.3 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these



Levels of education for Michigan residents, ages 25-64

● Less than ninth grade	126,941	2.4%
● Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	373,150	7.0%
● High school graduate (including equivalency)	1,561,910	29.3%
● Some college, no degree	1,365,715	25.6%
● Associate degree	483,910	9.1%
● Bachelor's degree	892,753	16.8%
● Graduate or professional degree	522,166	9.8%
TOTAL	5,326,545	100%

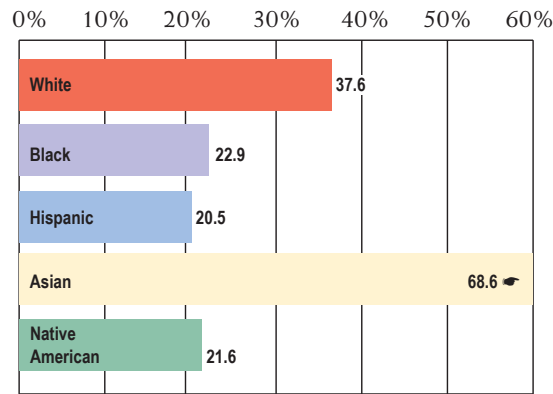
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

job vacancies, 836,000 will require postsecondary credentials, while only about 491,000 are expected to be filled by high school graduates or dropouts.

It will be impossible to reach the Big Goal without significantly increasing college success among the groups that can accurately be called 21st century students, including working adults, low-income and first-generation students and students of color. Closing attainment gaps among racial and ethnic groups is a particular challenge in Michigan, as in other states. The current higher education attainment rates in Michigan are displayed in the accompanying bar graph.

These gaps have persisted for decades, and closing them is obviously a big challenge. Still, it can and *must* be done. It will require concerted and strategic efforts over many years — efforts based on solid evidence about what works to

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

increase attainment. Information about successful strategies to increase the number of students who complete higher education is available on Lumina Foundation's Web site. The site also provides specific information about Michigan's degree-attainment rates at www.luminafoundation.org/state_data/. From there, you can find links to data from all 50 states.

Still more information is available at a Web-based resource created by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS). The NCHEMS Information Center provides detailed comparative data for all states and counties, as well as other contextual information that can help higher education policymakers and analysts make sound policy decisions. We urge you to visit the site (www.higheredinfo.org).

Percentage of Michigan adults (25-64) with a two- or four-year degree, by county:

Allegan	29.8	Emmet	40.6	Lenawee	28.4	Otsego	26.1
Alpena	34.1	Genesee	29.8	Livingston	43.4	Ottawa	39.4
Antrim	30.1	Gladwin	20.3	Macomb	34.4	Roscommon	24.8
Barry	28.0	Grand Traverse	39.9	Manistee	27.7	Saginaw	31.4
Bay	31.1	Gratiot	23.7	Marquette	42.1	St. Clair	26.6
Berrien	34.5	Hillsdale	21.9	Mason	31.5	St. Joseph	22.5
Branch	22.2	Houghton	36.1	Mecosta	29.4	Sanilac	20.8
Calhoun	29.4	Huron	25.5	Menominee	24.8	Shiawassee	27.9
Cass	25.3	Ingham	45.7	Midland	46.0	Tuscola	24.1
Charlevoix	32.9	Ionia	22.5	Monroe	27.6	Van Buren	29.5
Cheboygan	27.7	Iosco	24.3	Montcalm	22.7	Washtenaw	60.4
Chippewa	26.9	Isabella	38.1	Muskegon	28.2	Wayne	28.6
Clare	18.5	Jackson	28.4	Newaygo	23.2	Wexford	24.4
Clinton	40.5	Kalamazoo	44.0	Oakland	52.8	Other counties	24.3*
Delta	31.4	Kent	40.5	Oceana	23.1		
Dickinson	27.9	Lapeer	27.2	Ogemaw	20.3		
Eaton	37.8	Leelanau	48.8	Osceola	22.8		

*This percentage is an average for the 19 Michigan counties with fewer than 20,000 residents.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

Lumina Foundation for Education is committed to enrolling and graduating more students from college — especially low-income students, students of color, first-generation students and adult learners. Our goal is to increase the percentage of Americans who hold high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by 2025.

Lumina pursues this goal in three ways: by identifying and supporting effective practice, through public policy advocacy, and by using our communications and convening power to build public will for change. For more details on the Foundation, visit our Web site at www.luminafoundation.org.

