

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

In Ohio, nearly 35 percent of the state's 6 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 Ohio 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 Ohio continues to increase attainment at the rate it did over the last decade (2000-2008), the state will have a college-attainment rate of 44.5 percent in 2025 — far short of the Big Goal of 60 percent.

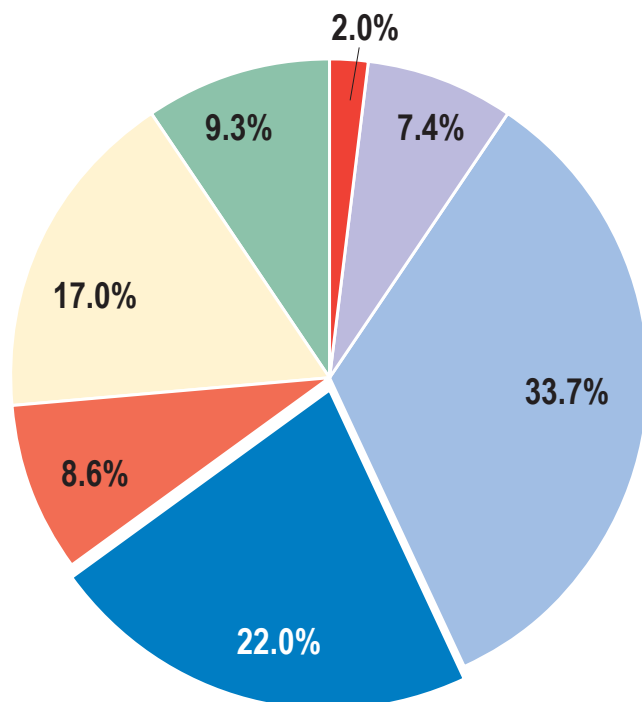
However, this gap *can* be closed. The key is to begin increasing degree production, and to continue to increase it each year until 2025. By increasing production by 10,611 associate or bachelor's degrees each year between now and 2025 — an annual increase of 6.4 percent — Ohio will reach the Big Goal.

One excellent place to begin looking for these additional graduates is in the ranks of Ohio residents who have completed some college without earning a degree. In 2008, more than 1.3 million Ohio residents fit into this category

— representing 22 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 Ohio 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 Ohio'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, 57 percent of Ohio's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Ohio will need to fill more than 1.7 million vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies, 967,000 will require postsecondary credentials, while only 742,000 are



Levels of education for Ohio residents, ages 25-64

● Less than ninth grade	125,101	2.0%
● Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	452,160	7.4%
● High school graduate (including equivalency)	2,052,525	33.7%
● Some college, no degree	1,338,548	22.0%
● Associate degree	522,700	8.6%
● Bachelor's degree	1,033,340	17.0%
● Graduate or professional degree	568,282	9.3%
TOTAL	6,092,656	100%

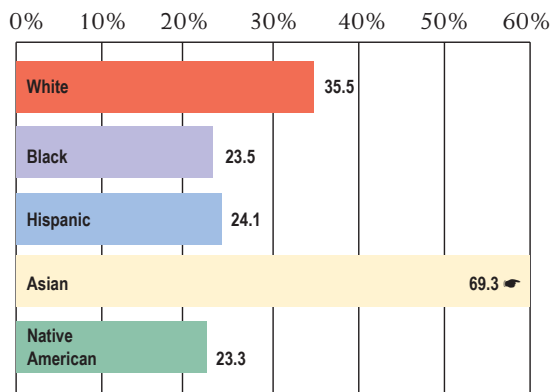
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

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 Ohio, as in other states. The current higher education attainment rates in Ohio 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 increase attainment. Information about successful

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



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

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 Ohio'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 Ohio adults (25-64) with a two- or four-year degree, by county:

Adams	18.3	Cuyahoga	38.5	Highland	17.8	Meigs	20.5	Seneca	26.6
Allen	27.7	Darke	21.2	Hocking	22.3	Mercer	26.6	Shelby	24.9
Ashland	27.0	Defiance	24.8	Holmes	14.7	Miami	31.1	Stark	30.2
Ashtabula	21.7	Delaware	60.0	Huron	20.0	Montgomery	35.8	Summit	40.6
Athens	36.8	Erie	31.7	Jackson	21.0	Morrow	22.4	Trumbull	24.9
Auglaize	28.8	Fairfield	33.7	Jefferson	27.4	Muskingum	23.6	Tuscarawas	22.0
Belmont	26.9	Fayette	20.8	Knox	24.5	Ottawa	32.3	Union	34.1
Brown	18.8	Franklin	44.2	Lake	36.8	Perry	17.6	Van Wert	24.2
Butler	35.5	Fulton	24.3	Lawrence	22.7	Pickaway	20.5	Warren	46.1
Carroll	19.4	Gallia	25.0	Licking	31.4	Pike	18.6	Washington	26.4
Champaign	19.7	Geauga	43.2	Logan	21.8	Portage	32.3	Wayne	26.8
Clark	27.9	Greene	46.8	Lorain	31.1	Preble	19.2	Williams	24.0
Clermont	35.0	Guernsey	21.0	Lucas	34.4	Putnam	33.4	Wood	43.9
Clinton	23.4	Hamilton	42.3	Madison	25.2	Richland	24.5	Wyandot	24.0
Columbiana	23.3	Hancock	35.3	Mahoning	31.7	Ross	20.9	Other counties	18.2*
Coshocton	19.3	Hardin	21.6	Marion	19.6	Sandusky	25.7		
Crawford	20.8	Henry	21.5	Medina	39.9	Scioto	21.1		

*This percentage is an average for the six Ohio 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.

