

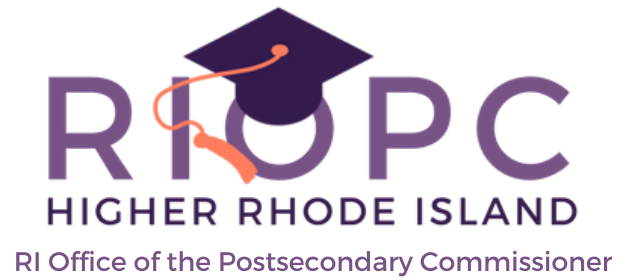


**HIGHER RHODE ISLAND**



**A ROADMAP FOR  
POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT  
IN THE OCEAN STATE**

**FEBRUARY 2018**





ROUGHLY 70 PERCENT OF THE JOBS WE'LL CREATE IN THE COMING YEARS REQUIRE AT LEAST AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE, BUT LESS THAN 45 PERCENT OF RHODE ISLANDERS HAVE ANY TYPE OF COLLEGE DEGREE.

TODAY, I'M DRAWING ANOTHER LINE IN THE SAND: BY **2025**, FIVE YEARS AFTER TODAY'S 9TH GRADERS GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL, **70 PERCENT** OF WORKING-AGE RHODE ISLANDERS WILL HAVE AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE OR HIGHER.

**GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO**  
September 21, 2016

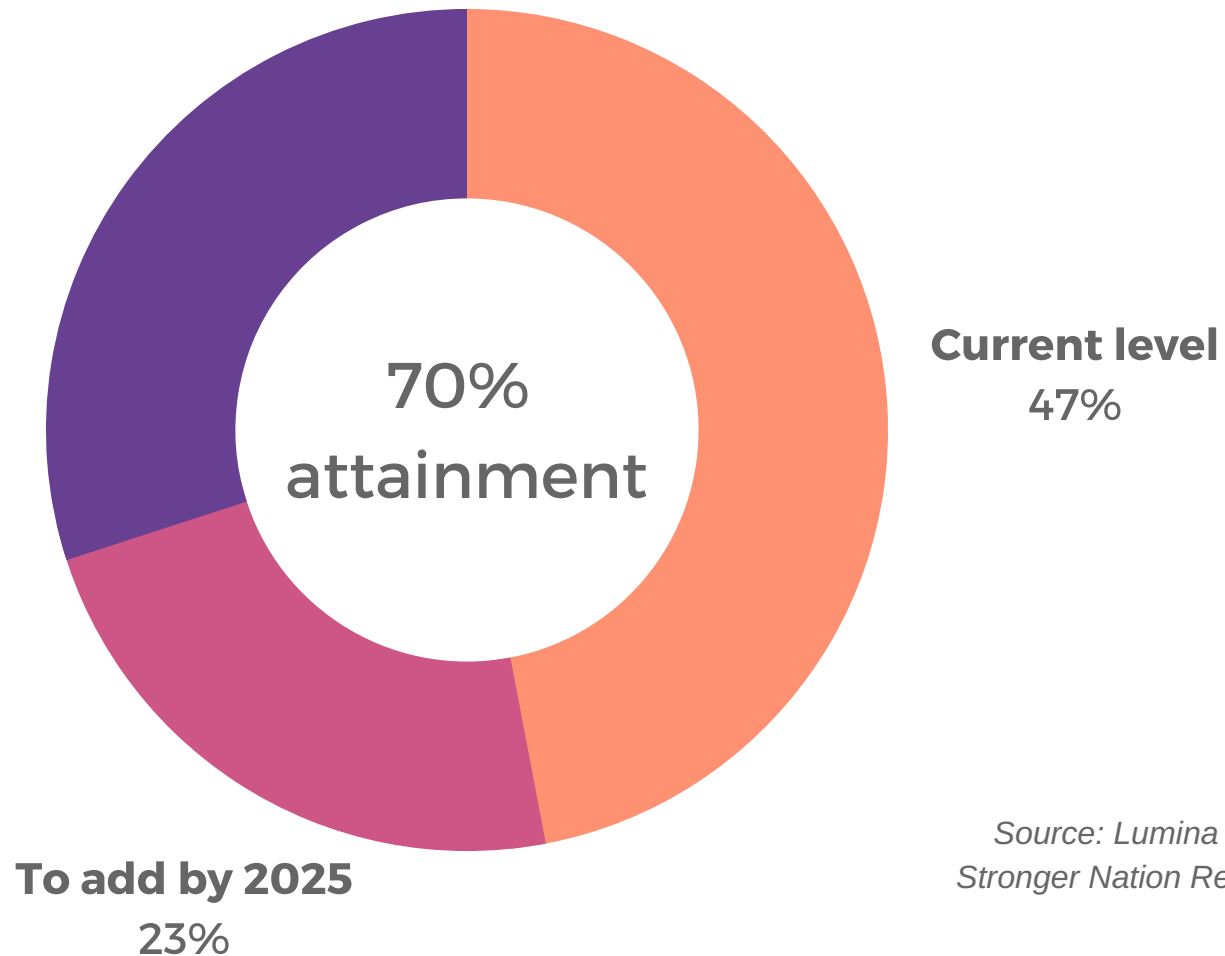
WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO GET TO 70% BY 2025?



# PUTTING OUR GOAL IN CONTEXT

# Postsecondary attainment in Rhode Island

% of Rhode Islanders with postsecondary degree or certificate (ages 25-64)

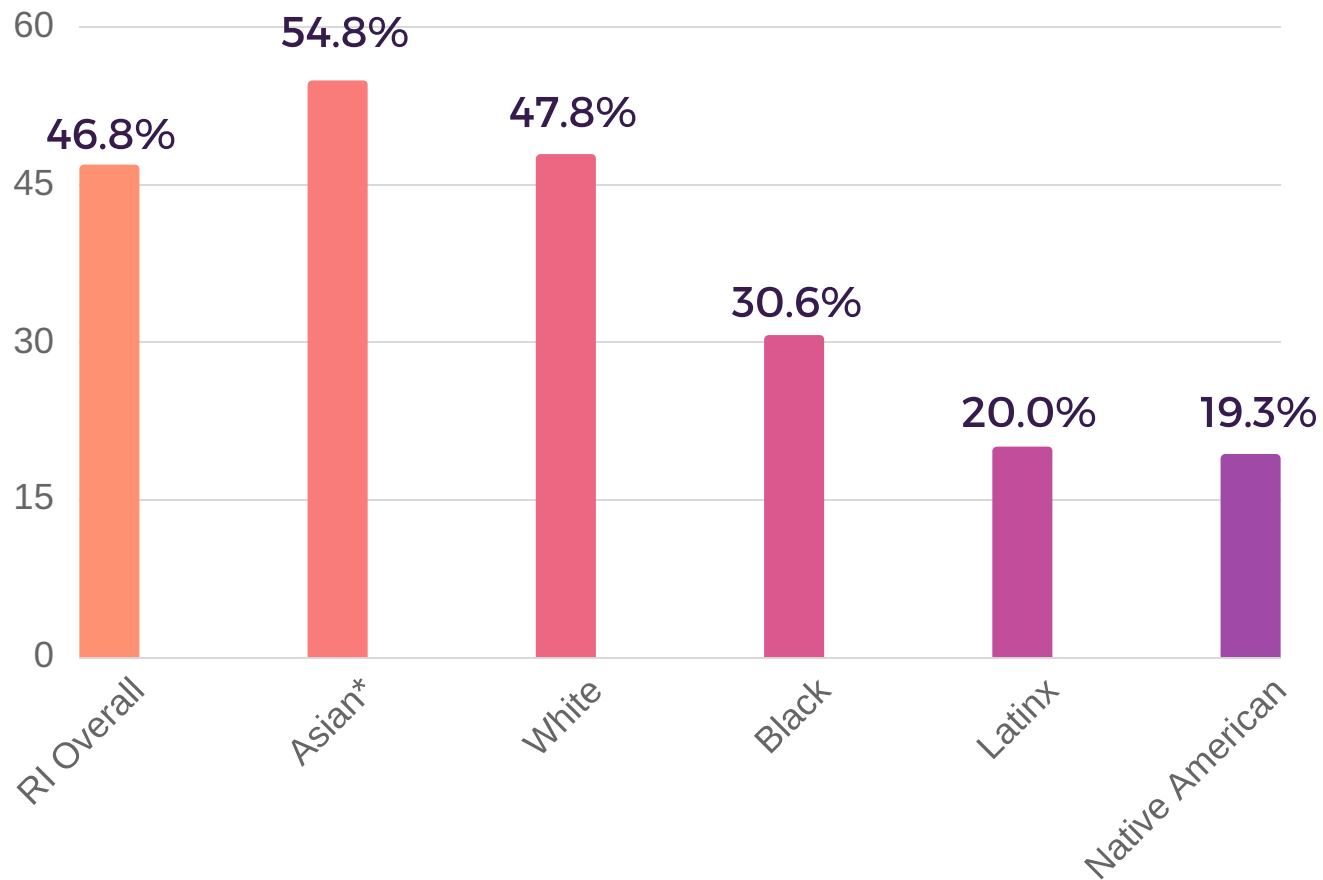


Source: Lumina Foundation  
Stronger Nation Report (2018)

# Closing equity gaps

*Postsecondary attainment in Rhode Island by race/ethnicity*

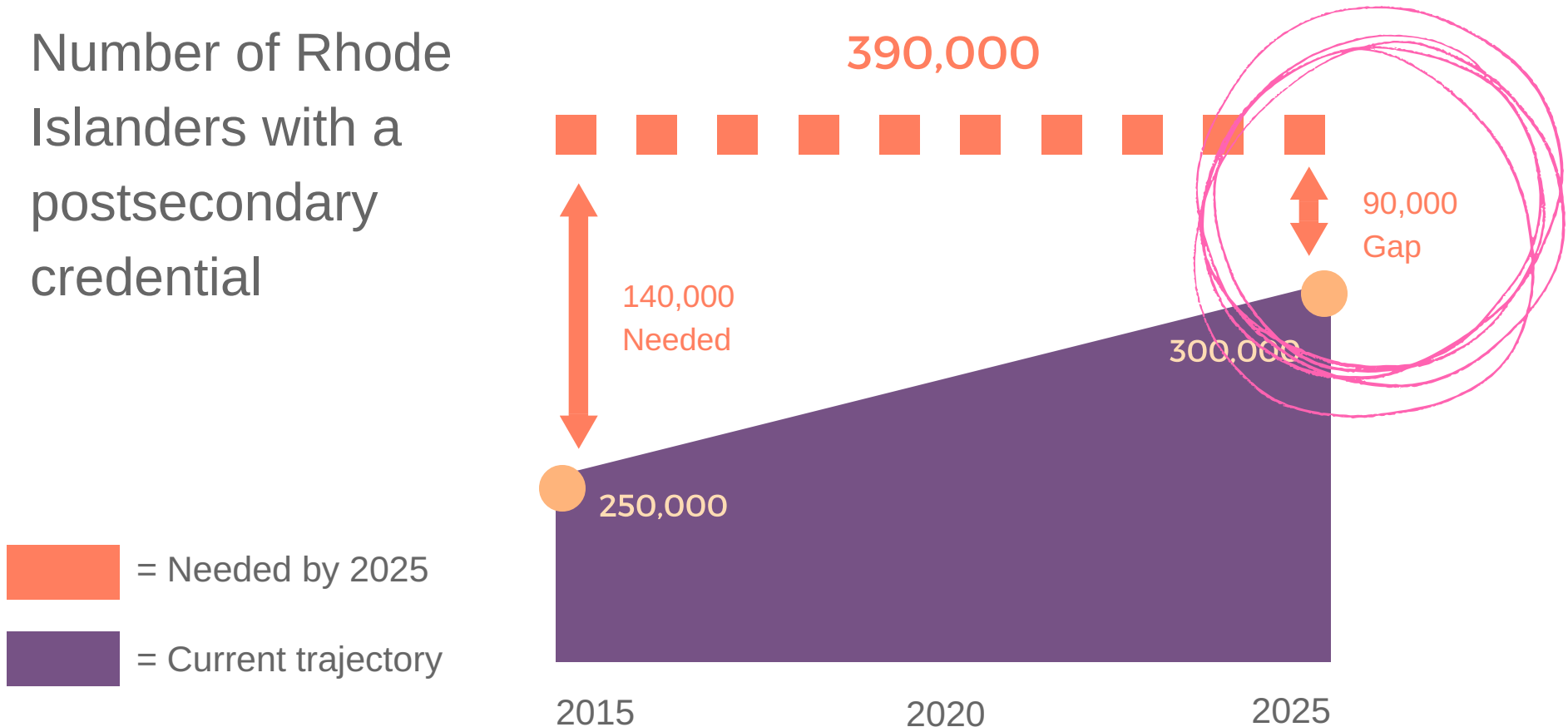
Rhode Island will not meet its postsecondary attainment goal without targeted strategies to close equity gaps throughout the postsecondary system.



\* Further disaggregation is needed to represent equity gaps within Asian populations.

# Current trajectory toward 70%

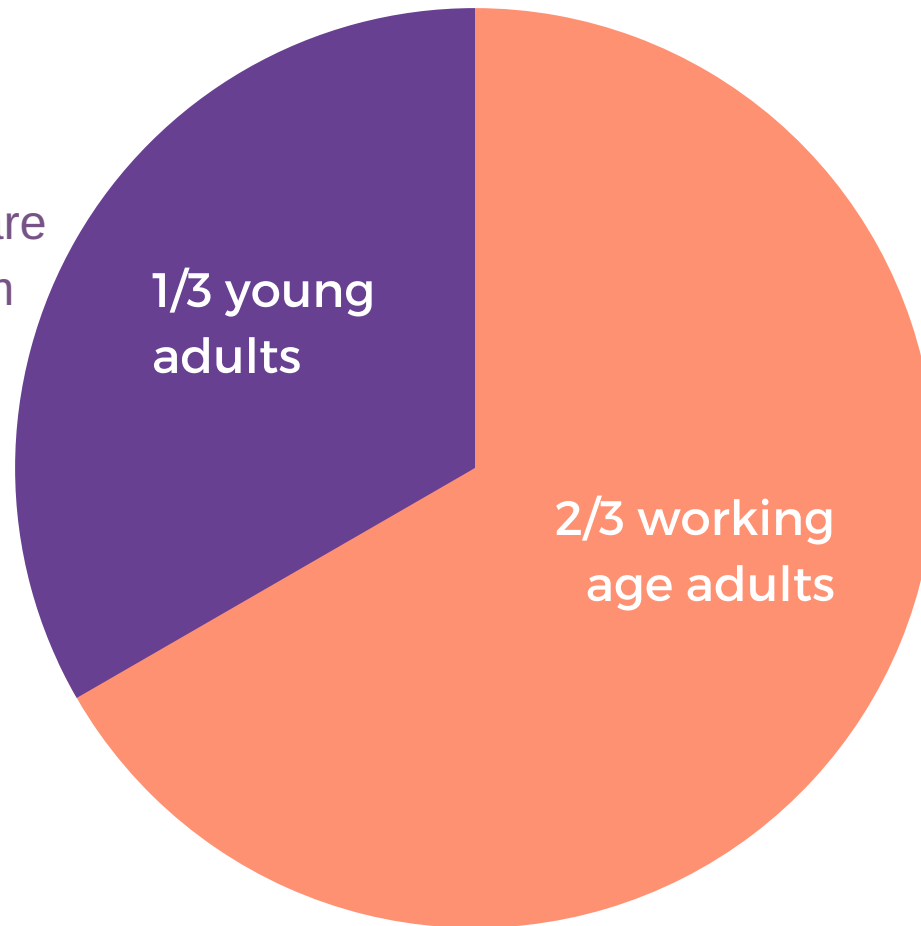
Number of Rhode Islanders with a postsecondary credential



Source: Adapted from Education Strategy Group analysis (2018)

# Where will the 90,000 come from?

There are 53,000 Rhode Islanders ages 18-24 who are disconnected from educational opportunity.



There are 260,000 Rhode Islanders ages 25-64 who have high school equivalent only or some college, no degree.



# Building on a strong foundation

Rhode Island's three public institutions of higher education - the University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC), and the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) - have clear strategic visions and strong leadership to continue moving forward with student-focused agendas.

The Rhode Island Department of Education and the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner have a joint strategic plan to ensure the success of students across the education and training pipeline.

Meeting the 70% attainment goal will require even more coordination and collaboration across sectors to provide significantly greater postsecondary opportunities and supports to all Rhode Islanders.



**Since Governor Raimondo announced her ambitious goal to reach 70% postsecondary attainment by 2025, we've already made significant progress, moving from 43% to 47% attainment in just two years.**

# RI has made major investments

## **Postsecondary Readiness**

Reduced Advanced Placement test fees

Offered free PSAT and SAT exams during school

Expanded dual and concurrent enrollment programs

Ensured computer science courses are available throughout RI

## **Affordability**

Introduced RI Promise Scholarship at CCRI

Reduced textbook costs with Open Education Resources

Proposed expanding child care assistance for low-income students

## **Career Readiness**

Launched Westerly Education Center in partnership with Electric Boat

Proposed expanding Westerly model to northern Rhode Island

Opened state-of-the-art Nursing Education Center in Providence

Funded 32 Real Jobs RI sector partnerships

Growing youth talent pipeline through Prepare RI initiative

HOW WILL WE ACCELERATE OUR PROGRESS?



# RECOMMENDATIONS

# Recommendations

*With the support of the Governor's Workforce Board and help from Education Strategy Group, we've engaged stakeholders from across the state to reflect on current practices, assess gaps in the state's education and training pipeline, and develop recommendations:*

1

Scale on-ramps to postsecondary attainment for adults

2

Strengthen investments in postsecondary retention and completion

3

Expand postsecondary access and preparation in the K-12 pipeline

4

Establish collective ownership of the postsecondary attainment goal

# 1

## Scale on-ramps to postsecondary attainment for adults

1. Prioritize efforts to **engage and reengage** adults in postsecondary education, including those with some college but no degree, as well as those with no postsecondary experience.
2. Create an **Adult Promise** program so that more adults can afford postsecondary education.
3. Expand **flexible** course offerings and **online** learning options to better accommodate the schedules of working adults.
4. Build **stronger pathways** from high school equivalency programs into postsecondary education.
5. Replicate an integrated education and training model, such as **I-Best**.



## Strengthen investments in postsecondary retention and completion

1. Invest in expanding high- and low-intensity student support services.
2. Continue to **align** postsecondary programs with the labor market.
3. Support efforts to enroll students in credit-bearing coursework upon entry.
4. Further accelerate students' **time to credential**.



## Expand postsecondary access and preparation in the K-12 pipeline

1. Make postsecondary readiness a core success **metric** for high schools.
2. Sustain and enhance the portfolio of **early postsecondary** opportunities that “speed up” students’ transitions to higher education.
3. Expand the **Rhode Island Promise** scholarship to allow more students at more institutions to benefit.
4. Scale **career pathways** in Rhode Island’s high-demand fields that lead to credentials of value.
5. Expand **work-based learning** to help students gain technical skills that prepare them to obtain a good job.



## Establish collective ownership of the postsecondary attainment goal

1. Publicly **report** on and monitor progress toward the attainment goal twice per year.
2. Catalyze public and private partners to work **collectively** to achieve the attainment goal.
3. Develop a statewide **communications** and marketing strategy that emphasizes the value of a postsecondary credential in Rhode Island's economy.
4. Make education and talent pipeline **data** available and actionable for all stakeholders.
5. Continue to **invest** in postsecondary education in our state.



NOW WHAT?



**NEXT STEPS**

# What's next

*These recommendations amount to a high-level **roadmap** to achieving our goal of having 70% postsecondary attainment in Rhode Island by 2025. No single sector can close the attainment gap alone—it will require collective ownership, collaboration, and urgency.*

Over the next few months, we'll continue intensive engagement with stakeholders - from our public and private **higher education institutions, to employers, to students, to community organizations** - to get their input on exactly how we'll implement our plan and how we'll measure our progress.

In summer 2018, we will release a **public dashboard** that all stakeholders can use to monitor our progress. Through the dashboard, we'll report on our progress twice annually.



RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner  
[www.riopc.edu/70by25](http://www.riopc.edu/70by25)