

A policy brief from Lumina Foundation

A STRONGER NATION THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION



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

In Iowa, 39.7 percent of the state's 1.6 million working-age adults (25-64 years old) hold at least a two-year degree, according to 2010 Census data. Attainment rates in Iowa are essentially stable. The degree-attainment rate of young adults — 25-34 years old — is 45.7 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole.

In 2010, the percentage of Americans between the ages of 25 and 64 — working-age adults — who held a two- or four-year college degree was **38.3 percent**. The rate is going up slowly but steadily. In 2009, the rate was 38.1 percent, and in 2008 it was 37.9 percent. For young adults, the best leading indicator of future higher education attainment, the rate is 39.3 percent — a full percentage point higher than for all working-age adults.

In both Iowa and the U.S. as a whole, attainment rates must increase more rapidly to reach the Big Goal of 60 percent attainment by 2025. If the current rate of degree production continues, nearly 50 percent of Iowa's adult population — about 714,000 people — will hold a college degree in 2025. To reach 60 percent, Iowa will need to add more than 151,000 degrees to that total. That's a tall order, but it is far from impossible.

Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, explains why increasing higher education attainment is so important. According to the Center's analysis of occupation data and workforce trends, 62 percent of Iowa's jobs will require postsecondary education by 2018. Between now and 2018, Iowa will need to fill 527,100 vacancies resulting from job creation, worker retirements and other factors. Of these job vacancies,

319,000 will require postsecondary credentials. Clearly, Iowa's economic future depends on producing more college graduates.

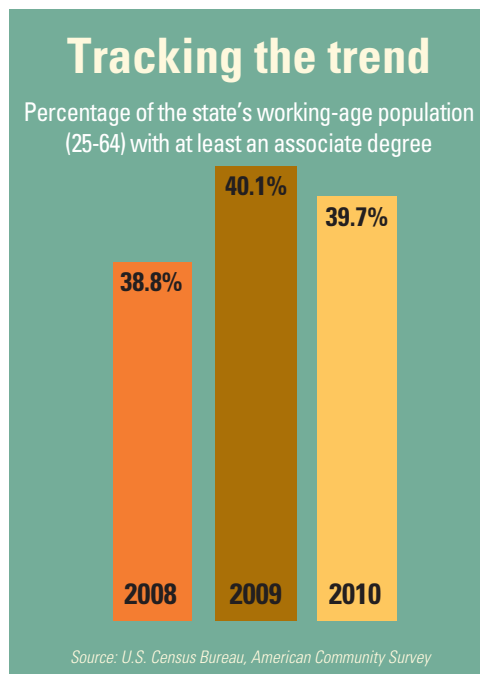
Iowa can produce a lot more graduates by helping its residents who have gone to college but haven't yet earned a credential. In 2010, more than 360,000 Iowa adults had gone to college but did not have either a two- or four-year college degree. They represent 23 percent of the state's adult population. Encouraging and helping these adults to complete degrees would go a long way to helping Iowa reach the 60 percent goal.

To increase higher education attainment, states must work systematically to close achievement gaps. To help Iowa develop and implement these strategies, this document features a detailed breakdown of the attainment rate in each county. The data show that, while increasing attainment is a statewide need, it is a particular challenge in rural counties. Assuring that all Iowa communities have access to high-quality higher education is essential.

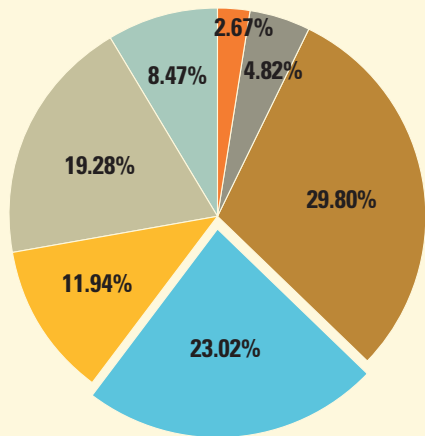
Finally, to reach the Big Goal, Iowa must increase college success among the fast-growing groups that will account for a growing

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 Iowa's economy and ensure a bright future for the state.

More detailed data on higher education attainment for the nation and all 50 states — as well as information on effective strategies to increase the number of college graduates — is available on Lumina Foundation's website (www.luminafoundation.org).



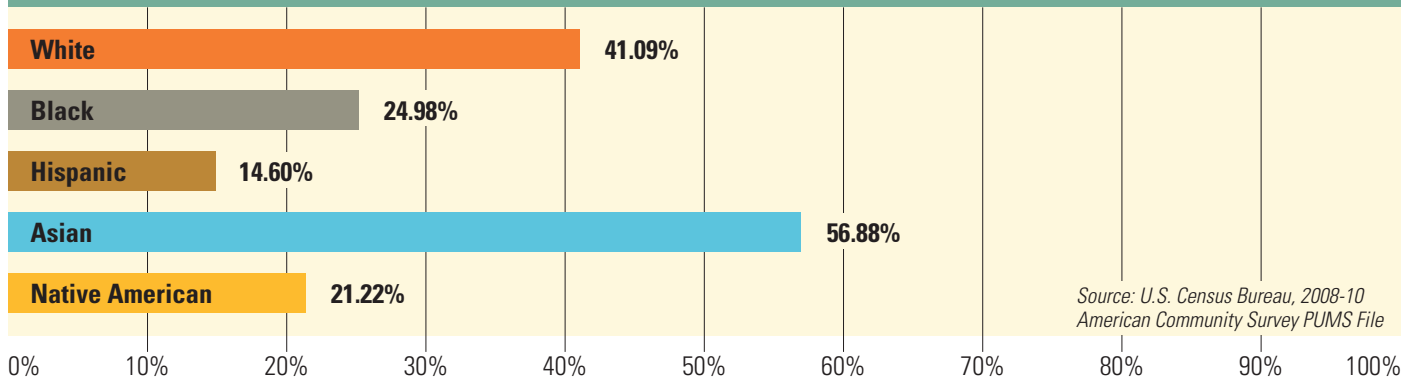
Levels of education for Iowa residents, ages 25-64



Less than ninth grade	41,888	2.67%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	75,436	4.82%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	466,729	29.80%
Some college, no degree	360,481	23.02%
Associate degree	186,915	11.94%
Bachelor's degree	301,909	19.28%
Graduate or professional degree	132,604	8.47%
TOTAL	1,565,962	100%

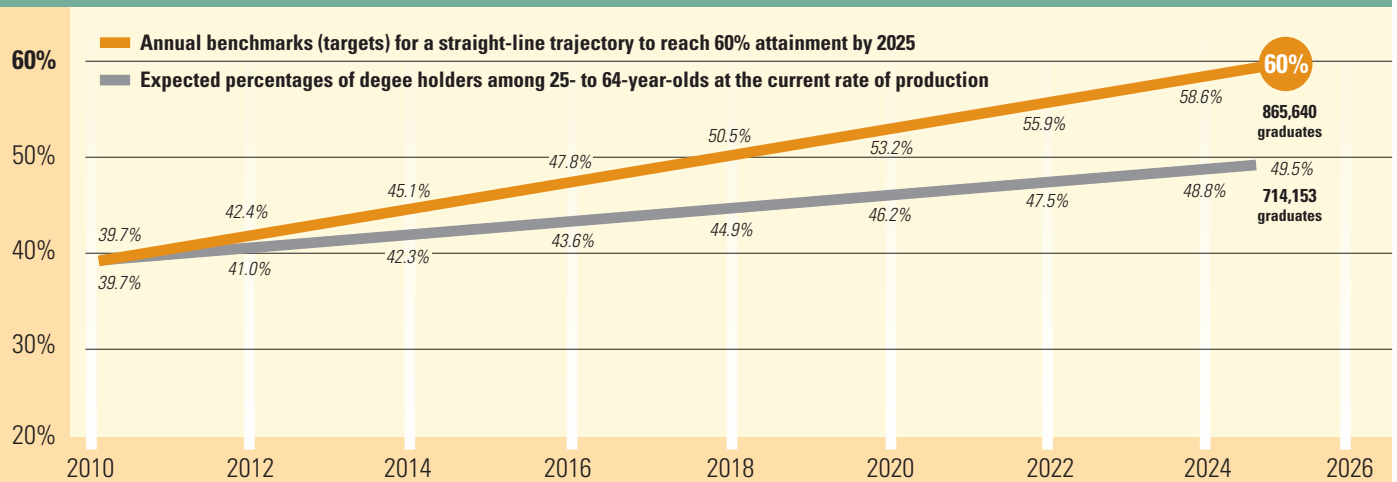
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Iowa



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

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

Adair	31.07	Cherokee	35.75	Franklin	29.85	Johnson	62.72	Montgomery	33.08	Tama	31.93
Adams	27.97	Chickasaw	28.43	Fremont	27.48	Jones	29.03	Muscatine	33.13	Taylor	29.71
Allamakee	25.78	Clarke	25.01	Greene	35.96	Keokuk	27.43	O'Brien	35.62	Union	28.53
Appanoose	30.83	Clay	33.79	Grundy	40.56	Kossuth	35.32	Osceola	29.48	Van Buren	24.35
Audubon	32.54	Clayton	26.77	Guthrie	33.92	Lee	26.04	Page	28.19	Wapello	26.59
Benton	32.17	Clinton	32.21	Hamilton	34.39	Linn	45.67	Palo Alto	33.60	Warren	41.71
Black Hawk	38.69	Crawford	23.21	Hancock	33.25	Louisa	24.17	Plymouth	34.85	Washington	31.89
Boone	34.33	Dallas	55.32	Hardin	40.59	Lucas	19.64	Pocahontas	32.49	Wayne	25.66
Bremer	43.71	Davis	33.18	Harrison	29.91	Lyon	31.38	Polk	45.81	Webster	33.35
Buchanan	34.49	Decatur	27.93	Henry	33.07	Madison	32.31	Pottawattamie	30.40	Winnebago	34.73
Buena Vista	33.26	Delaware	30.31	Howard	25.83	Mahaska	30.15	Poweshiek	34.62	Winneshiek	41.78
Butler	29.66	Des Moines	30.86	Humboldt	32.54	Marion	38.59	Ringgold	41.46	Woodbury	31.24
Calhoun	33.84	Dickinson	42.48	Ida	31.19	Marshall	32.92	Sac	32.70	Worth	34.93
Carroll	34.54	Dubuque	37.78	Iowa	35.50	Mills	37.83	Scott	43.26	Wright	29.04
Cass	26.37	Emmet	35.80	Jackson	25.60	Mitchell	33.61	Shelby	32.92		
Cedar	34.72	Fayette	30.29	Jasper	28.62	Monona	26.85	Sioux	36.35		
Cerro Gordo	41.76	Floyd	30.82	Jefferson	45.08	Monroe	30.96	Story	60.09		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Lumina Foundation, an Indianapolis-based private foundation, is committed to enrolling and graduating more students from college — especially 21st century students: low-income students, students of color, first-generation students and adult learners. Lumina's goal is to increase the proportion 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.