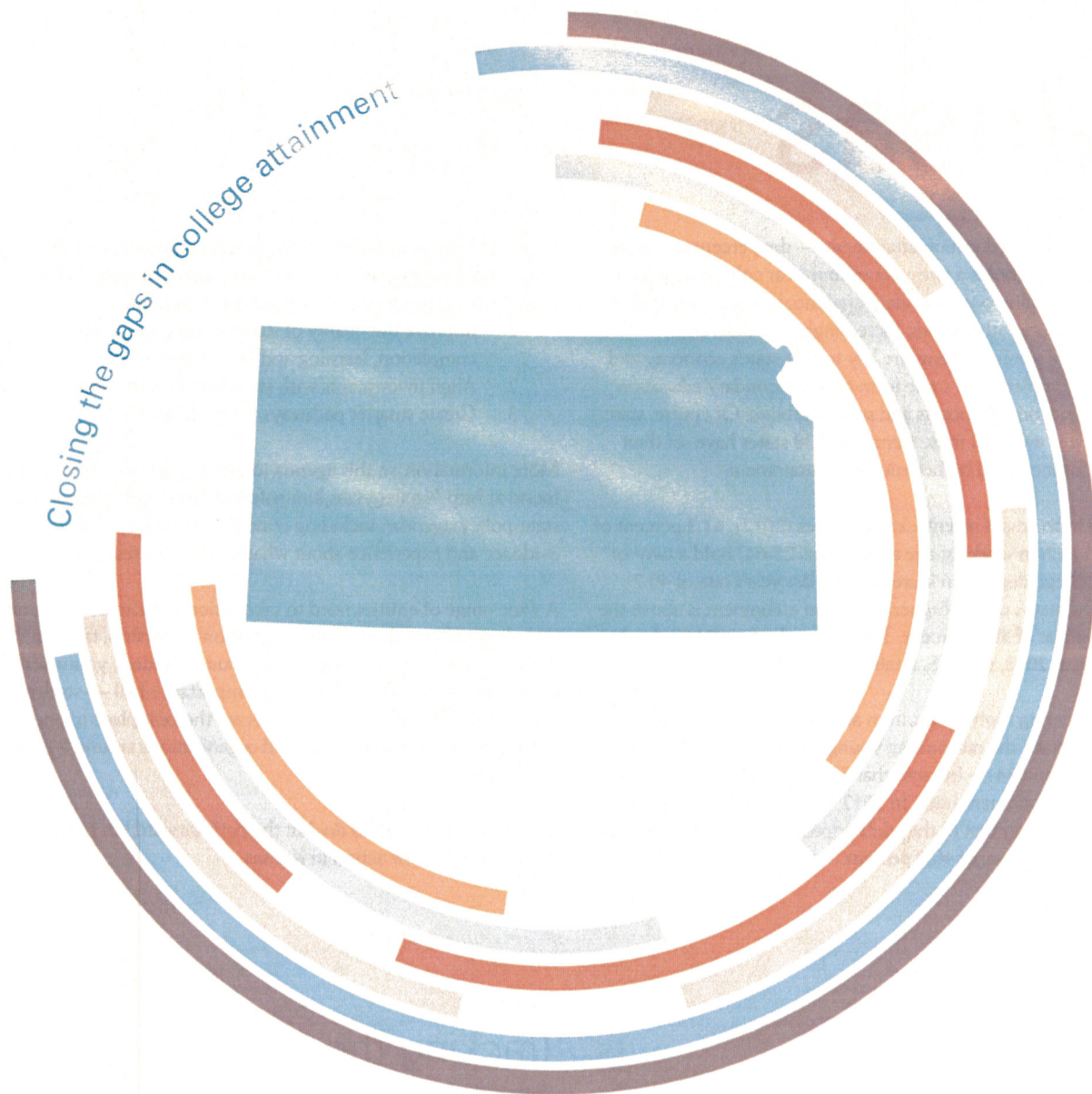
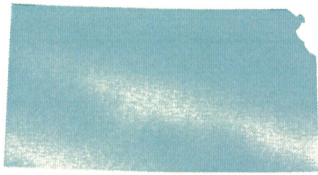




a **STRONGER KANSAS** through **HIGHER EDUCATION**

A policy brief from Lumina Foundation



Kansas

Increasing higher education attainment — the percentage of the population that holds a two-year or four-year college degree or other high-quality postsecondary credential — is an imperative in Kansas, as it is in other states. Increasingly, the skills and knowledge of a state's residents are key to that state's economy and jobs, just as completion of some form of postsecondary education is key to an individual's success and social mobility. Of course, state leaders are well aware of these trends, and 38 states have set their own goals for increased higher education attainment.

According to the most recent Census figures (2012), 41.3 percent of Kansas' 1.5 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree, an increase from last year's rate of 40.7 percent. The state's rate of higher education attainment is above the national average of 39.4 percent. This national rate is rising slowly but steadily; in 2008, the U.S. attainment rate was 37.9 percent.

When considering higher education attainment rates, it is very important to track the rate among young adults — those between the ages of 25 and 34 — because that figure is the best indicator of a state's future attainment rates. In 2012, this rate in Kansas was 43 percent, higher than that of the adult population as a whole and also above the national rate of 40.9 percent.

How can Kansas and other states increase attainment to the levels they need? Lumina has identified three steps that states can and should take to produce real increases in attainment:

1. Improve the quality of student outcomes in terms of completion, learning and employment.
2. Align investments with state priorities and student needs.
3. Create smarter pathways for students.

More information on this agenda to increase attainment can be found at <http://strategylabs.luminafoundation.org/higher-education-state-policy-agenda/>, including concrete action steps based on evidence and experience about what works in states.

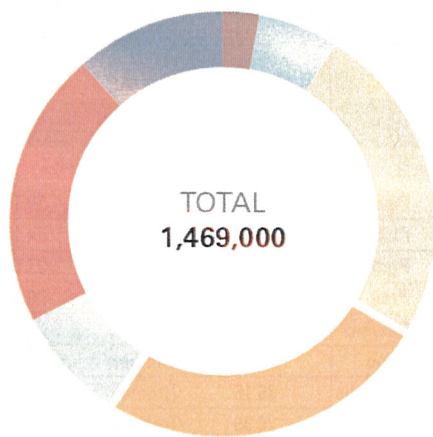
A wide range of entities need to take action to increase attainment, including policymakers, higher education leadership, faculty, business leaders and employers, community leaders, youth-serving organizations, and — perhaps most important of all — students and their families. Lumina believes states are the best place to engage and mobilize these individuals and organizations around a common goal and plan.

There is a lot of work to do, but the path forward has become clear. Now is the time for action in Kansas.

Tracking the trend

Percentage of the state's working-age population (25-64) with at least an associate degree





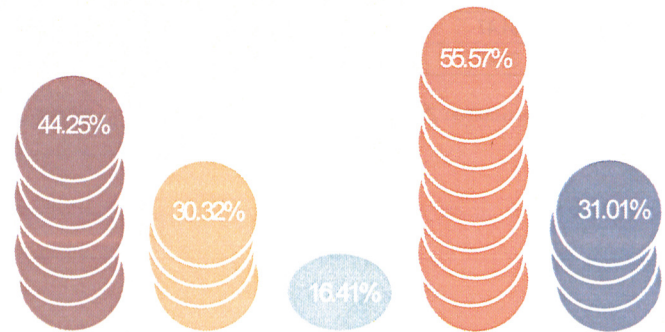
Levels of education for Kansas residents, ages 25-64

Less than ninth grade	44,711	3.04%
Ninth to 12th grade, no diploma	86,695	5.90%
High school graduate (including equivalency)	364,469	24.81%
Some college, no degree	365,931	24.91%
Associate degree	132,463	9.02%
Bachelor's degree	310,298	21.12%
Graduate or professional degree	164,433	11.19%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

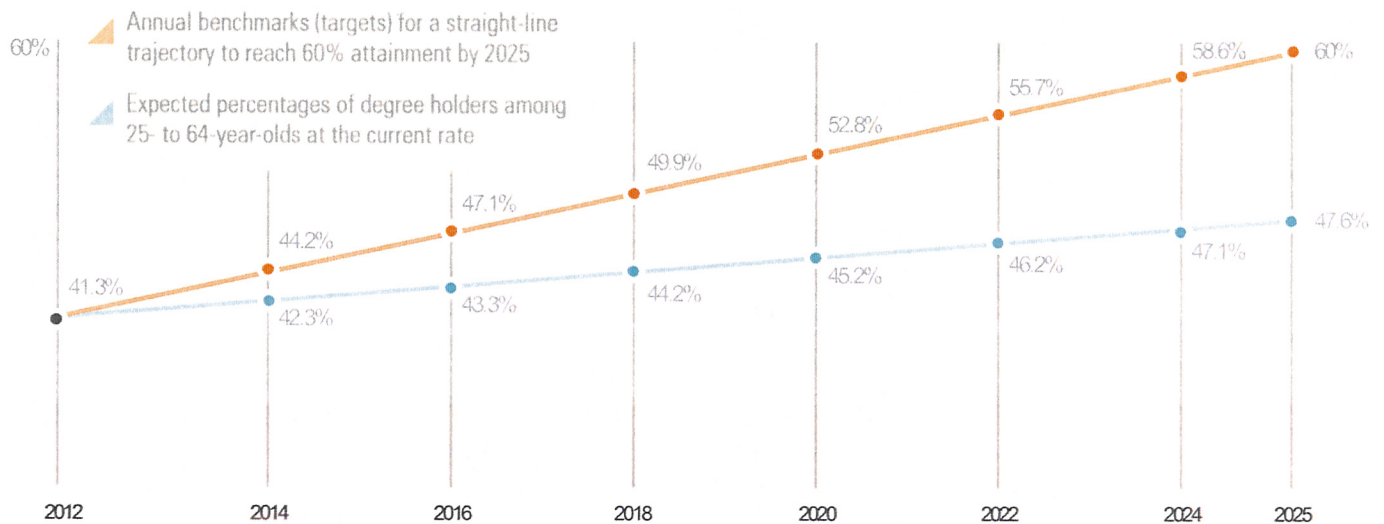
Degree-attainment rates among Kansas adults (ages 25-64), by population group

White	44.25%
Black	30.32%
Hispanic	16.41%
Asian	55.57%
Native American	31.01%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-12 American Community Survey PUMS File

The path to 60% degree attainment in Kansas



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2010, 2011, and 2012 American Community Survey

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

Allen	31.71	Crawford	36.98	Greenwood	24.85	Logan	35.31	Pawnee	31.84	Sherman	30.19
Anderson	31.09	Decatur	35.83	Hamilton	25.71	Lyon	29.66	Phillips	33.97	Smith	34.13
Atchison	29.94	Dickinson	30.16	Harper	29.51	McPherson	34.89	Pottawatomie	39.65	Stafford	32.06
Barber	31.67	Doniphan	29.15	Harvey	37.16	Marion	31.87	Pratt	36.65	Stanton	20.88
Barton	30.39	Douglas	56.89	Haskell	24.04	Marshall	22.53	Rawlins	37.00	Stevens	23.23
Bourbon	39.40	Edwards	32.76	Hodgeman	36.34	Meade	33.27	Reno	32.07	Sumner	29.35
Brown	26.34	Elk	33.88	Jackson	31.02	Miami	37.01	Republic	36.15	Thomas	44.68
Butler	39.64	Ellis	43.00	Jefferson	34.02	Mitchell	38.62	Rice	28.99	Trego	30.63
Chase	25.24	Ellsworth	31.03	Jewell	38.40	Montgomery	30.34	Riley	53.99	Wabaunsee	30.98
Chautauqua	31.18	Finney	27.42	Johnson	61.95	Morris	26.70	Rooks	33.52	Wallace	35.85
Cherokee	25.01	Ford	25.45	Kearny	25.06	Morton	31.70	Rush	28.88	Washington	34.87
Cheyenne	35.08	Franklin	30.42	Kingman	33.78	Nemaha	29.42	Russell	34.81	Wichita	34.60
Clark	41.10	Geary	31.16	Kiowa	39.66	Neosho	31.46	Saline	33.54	Wilson	22.14
Clay	31.05	Gove	33.28	Labette	35.04	Ness	32.66	Scott	39.15	Woodson	25.93
Cloud	32.41	Graham	34.09	Lane	27.26	Norton	28.27	Sedgwick	37.40	Wyandotte	23.69
Coffey	31.52	Grant	27.97	Leavenworth	39.50	Osage	29.58	Seward	19.40		
Comanche	34.47	Gray	32.46	Lincoln	39.37	Osborne	33.44	Shawnee	38.09		
Cowley	32.49	Greeley	31.26	Linn	28.52	Ottawa	31.33	Sheridan	35.08		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 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.