

Key Takeaways – 2017 Progress Report

In 2006, the Nebraska Legislature in statute identified education as key to the future of the state's economic future: "Increasing the number of Nebraskans with high levels of educational attainment is essential to support economic expansion and diversification." (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-1428) In 2017, it remains essential, as an estimated 71 percent of Nebraska jobs will require at least some postsecondary education by 2020. This report provides detailed analysis of Nebraska's progress toward increasing its educational attainment. The *Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education*, produced by the Coordinating Commission, includes many of these same metrics within its "Measuring Accomplishments" section.

31.7

The percentage of Nebraskans ages 22 to 64 who have a bachelor's degree or higher for the period 2011-2015, according to the American Community Survey. This is up from 29.8% for the period 2006-2010. The comparable figure for Nebraskans ages 22 to 64 who have some college or an associate's degree is 36.3%, up from 36.1%. (See Figure 3.1, page 141.)

89.3

Nebraska's 2015-2016 public high school graduation rate. (See Figure 1.1.a.4, page 28.)

71.0

The college continuation rate for the 2014-2015 Nebraska public high school graduating class. (See Figure 1.1.c.6, page 62.)

42.0

63.9

The six-year completion rates for Nebraska public two-year institutions (42.0%) and four-year public institutions (63.9%), compared to national rates of 38.1% and 61.2%, respectively. (Fall 2009 cohort.) (See Figure 2.3.1, page 131.)

70.7

For every 10,000 working-age (22 to 64) Nebraskans with a bachelor's degree or higher, there was an average annual net *out*-migration of 70.7 people from 2011 to 2015, meaning that Nebraska continues to lose more residents with a bachelor's degree than it attracts from other states. (See page 144.)

26.3

The percentage difference in college attainment between whites and minorities ages 25 to 44, which ranks second highest in the country. (See page S20.)