



The Appalachian Higher Education Network

...working with schools, families, communities and diverse partners to raise educational levels across the Appalachian region.

INCREASING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: BUILDING AN EDUCATED WORKFORCE

To, Through and Beyond



The Appalachian Region



The
Appalachian
Region
(Sokol, 05)



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“The widening . . . of the gap in college graduation rates between Appalachia and the rest of the nation is not a good portent for efforts to close the income gap and develop the regional economy.” (Hagga, 2004).

College Attainment - Appalachian States

Lumina Foundation Report. A stronger nation through higher education (Sept. 2010)

STATE	% ADULTS/ DEGREES (2 OR 4 Year)	ADD'L. DEGREES NEEDED	ADD'L. DEGREES NEEDED/YEAR
ALABAMA	31.6	443,034	3,258
GEORGIA	36.2	832,024	6,118
KENTUCKY	29.2	468,022	3,441
MARYLAND	43.9	252,296	1,855
MISSISSIPPI	29.3	318,069	2,339
N.C.	36.9	695,631	5,115
NEW YORK	43.7	465,897	3,426
U.S.:	37.9	37,914,259	278,781

College Attainment – Appalachian States

Lumina Foundation Report. A stronger nation through higher education (Sept. 2010)

STATE	% ADULTS/ DEGREES (2 OR 4 Year)	ADD'L. DEGREES NEEDED	ADD'L. DEGREES NEEDED/YEAR
OHIO	34.9	889,174	6,538
PA	37.9	685,740	5,042
S.C.	34.4	347,947	2,558
TENNESSEE	31.3	668,635	4,916
VIRGINIA	43.4	242,798	1,785
WEST VA.	25.6	232,689	1,711
U.S.:	37.9	37,914,259	278,781

TO – POSTSECONDARY

High School Reform & College Access/Success for Low-Income & Minority Youth. Martinez & Klopott, 2005

Success with 21st century h.s. students

- Rigorous academic common core curriculum.
- Personalized learning environments.
- Academic and social support.
- Aligned curriculum between high school and postsecondary; within K-12 system.

**** FINDING: K-12 and postsecondary should work together closely to align high school curricula and postsecondary entrance requirements.**

THROUGH – POSTSECONDARY

GA Graduation Rate Task Force Report to University System of Georgia Board of Regents. Oct. 2010

- 3 factors contribute to college students' difficulty staying enrolled/graduating: leadership, student engagement, and the appropriate use of existing resources.
- GA institutions have been focused on college access and less on retention and graduation; under use of data to define retention barriers; and poor communication between K-12 and postsecondary concerning academic expectations.

THE K-12 POSTSECONDARY NEXUS

Higher Education and the Public Schools. Timpane, 1999

“All of the strategies know to increase secondary access and success require higher education and K-12 education to work together. This intersection is: “a place where the borders are clearly drawn and reasonably well fortified,” and as a situation in which “sustained diplomatic statecraft...will be needed to alter historic and entrenched definitions of territory and responsibility.”

BEYOND – POSTSECONDARY

Cracks in the Ed. Pipeline: A Business Leader's Guide to Higher Education Reform. CED, May 2005

- **Most states have made progress in preparing students for college; improvement needed.**
- **College participation rates increased modestly; nearly 2 in 5 five states did not improve access.**
- **Completion rates have improved modestly, but graduation rates remain low.**
- **Affordability is a significant problem; nearly all states perform poorly on this measure.**

BEYOND – POSTSECONDARY

B. Fitzgerald, Executive Director, Business-Higher Education Forum at the College Savings Foundation Summit. Sept. 2010

“Education systems currently do not produce the necessary numbers of skilled workers America needs to remain competitive.” “First, students are not adequately prepared to make the jump from high school to college, and secondly, once they get to college, not nearly enough students are interested in the fields that the U.S. workforce desperately needs bolstered (STEM).”