Degree Attainment Goals
Progress to Date and What We Need to do to Get There

WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee

Las Vegas, Nevada
September 4, 2013

The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems
The National Goal

“By 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world”

President Obama, February 24, 2009
The Big Goal - Lumina

“Increase the proportion of Americans with high-quality college degrees, certificates, or other credentials to 60% by 2025”
What Largely Fueled at the Conversations at the Time
Adults with Associate Degrees and Higher – U.S. and OECD Countries

Source: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2009 Education at a Glance
### Percent of Adults with an Associate Degree or Higher by Age Group – WICHE States, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>25 to 34</th>
<th>35 to 44</th>
<th>45 to 54</th>
<th>55 to 64</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>42.2</td>
<td>44.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>41.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>45 to 54</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td>39.6</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>39.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>55 to 64</td>
<td>39.6</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>39.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2009 American Community Survey
How Far Did We Have to Go?  
(our calculations at that time)

• Obama goal – 60% College Attainment Among 25 to 34 year olds by 2020 (8.3 million additional degrees)

• Lumina – 60% college attainment, including high quality certificates, among 25 to 64 year olds by 2025 (23 million additional degrees and certificates)
Additional Average Annual Degree Production Needed to Achieve Lumina’s Goal (NCHEMS calculations at that time)
Lots of Action Since

• State Goals – 38 states have some form of attainment goals

• Numerous initiatives focused on:
  • Completion generally – e.g. Complete College America
  • Adults – particularly returning adults (PLA, etc.)
  • Community Colleges (Gates, Aspen, etc.)
  • Developmental Education
  • Production of Certificates – value in employment market
  • Outcomes-Based funding formulas
  • Increased attention to workforce needs

• NCHEMS Modeling Work Focused On Identification of the Most Impactful Policy Levers – Results Were:
  • Retention
  • Focus on adults
What Have We Accomplished?

How have the U.S. and 50 states improved?

- 25 to 64 Year Olds
- 25 to 34 Year Olds
- Racial/Ethnic Gaps
- Credential and Degree Production
Change in College Attainment from 2000 to 2011 by State – 25 to 64 Year Olds

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey
Change in College Attainment from 2000 to 2011 by Degree-Level – 25 to 64 Year Olds

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey
Change in College Attainment from 2000 to 2011 by State – 25 to 34 Year Olds

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey
Change in College Attainment from 2000 to 2011 by Degree-Level – 25 to 34 Year Olds

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey
Change in College Attainment from 2000 to 2011 by Degree-Level – 25 to 34 Year Olds

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey
Racial/Ethnic Gaps
### Percentage Gap in College Attainment between Whites and Underserved Minorities – 25 to 64 Year Olds

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Change in Percentage Gap in College Attainment between Whites and Underserved Minorities from 2000 to 2009-11 – 25 to 64 Year Olds

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey
Change in College Attainment from 2000 to 2009-11 by Race/Ethnicity – 25 to 64 Year Olds

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey
Percentage Gap in College Attainment between Whites and Underserved Minorities – 25 to 34 Year Olds

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
Change in Percentage Gap in College Attainment between Whites and Underserved Minorities from 2000 to 2009-11 – 25 to 34 Year Olds

North Dakota: 9.4
Vermont: 8.9
Nebraska: 8.2
Rhode Island: 5.5
Minnesota: 6.6
New Jersey: 4.9
South Carolina: 4.5
Utah: 4.3
Wisconsin: 4.1
Tennessee: 4.0
Idaho: 3.9
Kansas: 3.9
Louisiana: 3.8
Maine: 3.7
Missouri: 3.6
New York: 3.5
Kentucky: 3.5
Georgia: 3.3
Connecticut: 3.1
Massachusetts: 3.0
Oklahoma: 2.9
Michigan: 2.7
Indiana: 2.7
Delaware: 2.4
Alabama: 2.4
Ohio: 2.1
Illinois: 2.0
United States: 1.7
Arkansas: 1.7
Washington: 1.6
Colorado: 1.6
Alaska: 1.3
New Mexico: 1.3
Arizona: 1.1
South Dakota: 1.0
Wyoming: 1.0
Mississippi: 0.9
Oregon: 0.9
Alabama: 0.6
Florida: 0.6
Virginia: 0.5
West Virginia: 0.4
California: 0.4
South Dakota: 0.2
Texas: 0.1
New Mexico: 0.1
New Hampshire: 0.0
Maryland: -0.1
Kentucky: -0.1
Connecticut: -0.2
Massachusetts: -0.3
Oklahoma: -0.7
Michigan: -2.1
Illinois: -4.7

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey
Change in College Attainment from 2000 to 2009-11 by Race/Ethnicity – 25 to 34 Year Olds

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and American Community Survey
Credential Production
Undergraduate Credentials Produced from 2000 to 2011

2,111,337
2,336,028
2,537,638
2,690,152
2,890,349
3,318,166

Sources: NCES, IPEDS Enrollment Survey
Undergraduate Credentials Produced from 2000 to 2011
By Level

Sources: NCES, IPEDS Enrollment Survey
Change in Undergraduate Credentials Produced, 2000-2011, by Level

- Bachelors degree
- A least 2 but less than 4 academic years
- Associates degree
- At least 1 but less than 2 academic years
- Less than 1 academic year
Distribution of Undergraduate Credentials Produced from 2000 to 2011

Sources: NCES, IPEDS Enrollment Survey
Undergraduate Credentials Awarded per 1,000 18 to 34 Year Olds with No College Degree (2011)

Sources: NCES, IPEDS Enrollment Survey; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS
Percent Change in Undergraduate Credentials Awarded per 1,000 18 to 34 Year Olds with No College Degree (from 2001 to 2011)

Sources: NCES, IPEDS Enrollment Survey; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS
Distribution of Credentials and Degrees by Race/Ethnicity 2010-11

- **White**
  - Bachelors degree: 55%
  - Associates degree: 28%
  - At least 1 but less than 2 academic years: 8%
  - Less than 1 academic year: 10%

- **Black**
  - Bachelors degree: 41%
  - Associates degree: 30%
  - At least 1 but less than 2 academic years: 14%
  - Less than 1 academic year: 15%

- **Hispanic**
  - Bachelors degree: 40%
  - Associates degree: 32%
  - At least 1 but less than 2 academic years: 14%
  - Less than 1 academic year: 14%

- **Native American**
  - Bachelors degree: 62%
  - Associates degree: 24%
  - At least 1 but less than 2 academic years: 6%
  - Less than 1 academic year: 8%

Sources: NCES, IPEDS
Doing It While We’re Young

Patterns of U.S. High School and College Participation and Completion by Age

High School Participation
- Earn High School Diploma or Equivalent – Levels off at Age 21

Undergraduate College Participation – Peaks at Age 19, Levels off at Age 30
- Complete Undergraduate College Degree – Peaks and Levels off at Age 31

Not Much Happens After the Age of 25

Note: Includes associate and bachelor’s degrees, but not certificates.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-07 American Community Survey (Public Use Microdata Sample)
What will it take to get there?
Progress Toward the Goals

Actual

60% Goal

Lumina Goal

Obama Goal

Goals Will be Reached in 2037 2054

Target by 2020

Target by 2025

Completion Agenda Evolving

From Completion for Education’s Sake . . .
to Employment Outcomes and Return on Investment
Dennis@nchems.org

Patrick@nchems.org

The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems

[Logo: NCHEMS]