myFutureNC and the Attainment Imperative

Cecilia Holden, President and CEO
September 8, 2022

2 million by 2030
“This ranking also looks beyond the sheer numbers, evaluating diversity of growth sectors, incentives, workforce development and training, and education partnerships.”

Anne Cosgrove, the editorial director for the Business Facilities magazine
NC: Most Robust Education Infrastructure in Nation

58 Community Colleges

16 Public Institutions

36 Private Institutions
Jobs requiring an industry recognized credential or some college will increase by 8.1% by 2028

In April 2022, North Carolina only had 0.8 job seekers per job opening.

NC’s labor market is tighter than it’s been in at least two decades.

In 2022, 81% of NC employers who tried to hire reported difficulty hiring.

69% claimed hiring has been more difficult than pre-pandemic conditions.

Efforts are Underway to Align with the Labor Market
North Carolina’s 2030 Attainment Goal

When the myFutureNC Commission set the statewide attainment goal, it projected that North Carolina would fall short by 400k individuals with a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree.
myFutureNC Leadership

myFutureNC is governed by a cross-sector board of directors composed of North Carolina education sector heads as well as business, philanthropic, legislative and executive branch leadership.

In addition, the myFutureNC Advisory Board of Commissioners includes 62 individuals representing 36 North Carolina counties.
Strategic Areas of Focus

To meet the talent pipeline needs of North Carolina and to create opportunities for all North Carolinians, myFutureNC focuses our efforts in four key areas.

Accountability Partner
We are an accountability partner. We recognize the goal of 2 million by 2030 will not happen without all educators, business leaders, local and state policymakers and citizens coming together. We must hold one another accountable by tracking and measuring progress of key metrics and the state’s goal of 2 million by 2030.

Data-Research Hub
We serve as a data-research hub for North Carolina to identify attainment trends, gaps, and most importantly, develop solutions and equip leaders and policymakers to prioritize resources and drive change.

Action Accelerator
We recognize the importance of our localities in this work as we strive to elevate promising practices and serve as an action accelerator.

Policy Advocate
Ultimately, this brings us to serving as a policy advocate. Through our partnerships with education sectors and the business community, ongoing data analysis, and boots-on-the-ground efforts through our regional impact managers, we identify and advocate for effective policies that will meet the education and workforce needs to ensure North Carolina’s residents, employers, and communities thrive.
NOTE: The most recent data show NC has 44,000* fewer individuals with short-term credentials or degrees than it needs to be on target to meet the 2 million by 2030 goal.

*Due to COVID impacts on data collection, we anticipate updating this data in late 2022 when 2021 data are released.
### Accountability Partner: Tracking 18 Key Performance Indicators

#### Academic Readiness
- NC Pre-K Enrollment: Up
- College- & Career-Ready in Reading: Down
- NAEP Reading: N/A
- College- & Career-Ready in Math: Down
- NAEP Math: N/A

#### Postsecondary Completion
- Postsecondary 1st-Yr Persistence: Down
- 4-Yr Public Completion Rate Within 6 Yrs: Up
- 4-Yr Private Completion Rate Within 6 Yrs: Up
- 2-Yr Completion Rate Within 6 Yrs: Up

#### College & Career Access
- Chronic Absenteeism (Missing 10%+ of school days): N/A
- High School Graduation (each year): Down
- ACT (17 or Higher): Down
- FAFSA Completion Rate: Down
- Postsecondary Enrollment Rate (18-24 Yr Olds): Down

#### Labor Market Alignment
- Skills and Labor Market Alignment: Flatline Trend
- % Opportunity Youth (16-24 Yr Olds): N/A
- % Labor Force Participation (25-44 Yr Olds): Up
- % Earning Living Wage (35-44 Yr Olds): Up

### Key:
- Likely to Meet/Exceed Target
- Trending Toward Target
- No Trend Data
- Flatline Trend
- Trending Down

ALL College and Career Access KPIs are trending FLAT or DOWN.
Data show that Hispanic students who enroll are completing AT or ABOVE statewide percentages.
Data-Research Hub

- Degree Ticker and Progress Toward 2M/2030
- Key Performance Indicators
- County Profiles
- County Explorer Tools
- Data Trends Workbook
- FAFSA Tracker
- Promising Attainment Practices Database
- Recommended County Attainment Goals

QR Code for County Attainment Profiles
County Attainment Profiles

- Data unique to each of NC’s 100 counties
- Highlights county and regional performance on key indicators
- Lists specific opportunities for improvement that will ultimately lead to increased attainment
- Facilitates decision-making on LOCAL priorities
- Uses data to identify three actionable opportunity areas to improve future attainment outcomes

North Carolina
NC goal: 2 million by 2030
2020 State Attainment Profile

Web address: www.shorturl.at/nc2z
Local Education Agencies: 115
Updated: Jan 30 2021

Opportunities for Growth

NC Pre-K Enrollment
35% of Buncombe County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 44%.

Transition to Postsecondary
58% of Buncombe County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the suburban county average of 62%.

High School Graduation
87% of Buncombe County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less, below the suburban county average of 88%.

Buncombe County
NC goal: 2 million by 2030
2020 County Attainment Profile

COUNTY OVERVIEW
Buncombe County is in the Asheville Prosperity Zone sub-region. Among 10 counties, it is the 3rd most educationally advanced. Only 1 in 3 Buncombe County high school seniors have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher, and only 1 in 3 students have completed 4 years of college.

Building the Foundation: Pre-K to 8
High-quality early learning and strong academic progress in early years help prepare children for future success.

How students in Buncombe County traditional public schools are doing:
- 471 more eligible pre-K students enrolled in NC Preschool program (vs. 5%)
- 3,114 more 3-8 graders earning college and career-ready (level 5) in reading (vs. 22%)
- 5,934 more 3-8 graders earning college and career-ready (level 5) in math (goal 50% vs. 46%)

Ready for College & Career
High school graduates are a crucial step in the pathway to postsecondary success in the beginning of a career. Activities that prepare students for college and career success includes gaining experience in college-level coursework and applying for financial assistance.

To meet state goals, Buncombe County needs:
- 184 more 4-year college graduates within five years (goal 63% vs. 47%)
- 402 more 60-credit completers (goal 60% vs. 37%)
- 767 more students to attend school regularly (goal 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 14%)
- 1,232 students participated in Career and Technical Education programs in 2019

Postsecondary Access and Success
These results capture student progression and credential completion from 2018-19 postsecondary program to postsecondary completion. They indicate relative strengths and weaknesses of Buncombe County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Among Buncombe County high school graduates:
- 960 of 3,786 (25%) graduate in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 52% of peers.
- 50% of 3,266 students who enrolled to their second year versus 58% of peers.
- 35% of students who earned an associate within 6 years versus 54% of peers.

Labor Market Outcomes
Lack of technical skills and lack of education are among the greatest reasons why NC’s workforce is not keeping up with demand. Labor market outcomes among recent graduates, the alignment between postsecondary qualifications, production and labor market demand, and future job demands.

In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
- 553 individuals aged 16-24
- 3,207 students graduated
- There are 239,585 job openings projected between 2018-2023.

Opportunities for Growth

Compared to similar counties and the state, these are the three areas Buncombe County should focus on to improve future attainment outcomes.

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- 553 individuals aged 16-24
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The top four STEM concentrations populated include health sciences, agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources, and Architecture & Construction.

myFUTURE NC
2 million by 2030
List of Opportunities for Growth

1. NC Pre-K Enrollment
2. Low-Performing Schools
3. FAFSA Completion
4. College & Career-Ready in Math
5. Transition to Postsecondary
6. AP Participation
7. School Counselors
8. College & Career-Ready in Reading
9. Career & College Promise Enrollment
10. Disconnected Youth
11. Postsecondary Completion
12. Adult Learners
13. First-Year Persistence
14. Chronic Absenteeism
15. High School Graduation
Action Accelerator

NC Workforce Credentials Initiative

Local Educational Attainment Collaboratives

Adult Learner Pilot
NC Reconnect aims to increase enrollment and completion among adult learners through partnerships.

NC Reconnect: Adult Learner Initiative

1.3 million
North Carolina adults ages 25-44 do not have a credential or degree.

NC RECONNECT COHORT 1 AND COHORT 2 COLLEGES

Cohort 1:
- Blue Ridge CC
- Durham Tech
- Fayetteville Tech
- Pitt CC
- Vance-Granville CC

Cohort 2:
- Caldwell CC&TI
- Central Carolina CC
- Forsyth Tech
- Lenoir CC
- Wilkes CC
To capitalize on progress made, myFutureNC will continue to advocate for:

- **NCcareers** - A data and information hub maintained by the North Carolina Department of Commerce’s Labor and Economic Analysis Division (LEAD) which helps students and workers connect to career opportunities and the education needed to pursue those opportunities.

- **NC Pre-K** - The state’s early care and education system, which serves ~20% of all 4-year-olds in North Carolina through high-quality programs throughout the state, and which serves as a critical systemic support for North Carolinians participating in the workforce or pursuing postsecondary education.

- **Implementation of the Science of Reading** - A vast, interdisciplinary body of scientifically-based research on which North Carolina educators are trained to enhance the teaching of early literacy in the state’s public schools.
Declining High School Population and Reduced Community College Enrollments

Unfortunately, North Carolina’s college enrollments are below pre-pandemic level, driven by declines in our community colleges and private two-year and four-year. Ultimately, reduced enrollment will decrease the number of individuals earning a postsecondary degree or industry-valued credential.

In Fall 2021, there were 366,836 students enrolled in the North Carolina Community College System, a 5% increase from Fall 2020 enrollment, but a decrease compared to Fall 2019 enrollment.
NEEDS FORECAST 1
CAREER PLANNING
- Deliver learning experiences that meet students’ interests
- Provide pathways to success
- Engage students firsthand in the real-world application of their knowledge and skills
- Provide well-guided career planning to all middle and high school students
- Ensure that every student has the resources they need to envision their future

1 in every 9
16 to 24-year-olds are not in school or working.

NEEDS FORECAST 2
RAISE THE DROPOUT AGE
- NC is 1 of only 15 that allows students to drop out at age 16.
- NC has the shortest required attendance span in the nation (age 7 - 16).
- Raising the dropout age from 16 to 18 would prioritize high school graduation.

There is an average of 9,500 high school dropouts each year.

NEEDS FORECAST 3
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SHORT-TERM TRAINING & HIGHER-WAGE CAREERS
- In NC, jobs requiring an industry-valued credential or some college will increase by 8.1% by 2028, yet community college enrollment remains down from pre-pandemic levels.
- Federal Pell grants and state need-based grants do not cover required training for many trades and other industry-valued credentials.
- Providing last-dollar scholarships for people pursuing industry-valued short-term credentials will encourage enrollment.

Community college enrollments are down 13% from pre-pandemic numbers.

Approximately 16,000 students did not graduate high school on time in 2021.

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Key Takeaways

- Educational attainment is the gateway to upward mobility and economic prosperity. It’s the short-term recovery strategy and the long-term resiliency plan for NC’s economy.
- myFutureNC is state-led but educational attainment must be locally owned and driven.

Calls to Action

- Find ways to plug into this important work
  - Encourage adoption of your county’s recommended local attainment goal
  - Advocate for 3 forecasted needs
  - Stand up/lift-up cross-sector collaboratives leveraging County Attainment Profiles

Cecilia Holden: cecilia@myFutureNC.org
The Urgency for Increased Educational Attainment

Current projections indicate North Carolina is 44,000 below where it needed to be to be on target to the 2 million by 2030 goal. Based on the most recent data available, in 2019 North Carolina had an estimated 1,450,249 adults ages 25-44 with a high-quality degree or credential.

As of September 24, 2021, 58,604 students have completed as of July 29, 2022. A -3.4% change compared to last year.

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**2021-22 NC FAFSA Completion Goal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT STATUS:</th>
<th>54.9%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022 Goal: 65%</td>
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**North Carolina College Enrollment**

By Institution Sector

- **NC Community College System**: 422,128 (FALL 2019), 349,565 (FALL 2020), 366,836 (FALL 2021)
- **UNC System**: 239,981 (FALL 2019), 242,446 (FALL 2020), 244,500 (FALL 2021)
- **NC Independent Colleges & Universities**: 88,418 (FALL 2019), 86,822 (FALL 2020), 86,397 (FALL 2021)

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**Total Headcount Over Time**

NC Community College System

- **FALL 2017**: 442,534
- **FALL 2018**: 408,801
- **FALL 2019**: 422,128
- **FALL 2020**: 349,565
- **FALL 2021**: 366,836