

# 2022 IN REVIEW

North Carolina is blessed with an economy that continues to boom. We were recognized as [America's Top State for Business in 2022](#) and we have one of the most robust education infrastructures in the nation.

To ensure North Carolina remains economically competitive now and into the future, we must meet the state's educational attainment goal - to have 2 million North Carolinians ages 25-44 hold an industry-valued credential or postsecondary degree by 2030.



THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

## A SHARED VISION FOR EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA

myFutureNC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, aligns and coordinates local, regional, and state actions to dramatically increase the attainment of valuable credentials and post-secondary degrees. We are committed to the development and sustainability of deep, collaborative relationships to advance the state's educational attainment goal. Our shared measures for academic readiness, college and career access, postsecondary completion, and labor market alignment are critical transition points needed to guide North Carolina toward a new economic landscape.

myFutureNC completed its third year of operations, and the collective impact of our organization and partners across North Carolina in 2022 has resulted in the following concrete examples of how action is being catalyzed statewide. This will remain our theme into 2023 with an emphasis on driving deeper to foster attainment ready communities throughout North Carolina.

To achieve our goal myFutureNC will: Monitor & Report Progress, Accelerate Action, and Identify & Advocate for Policy Solutions.

### OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

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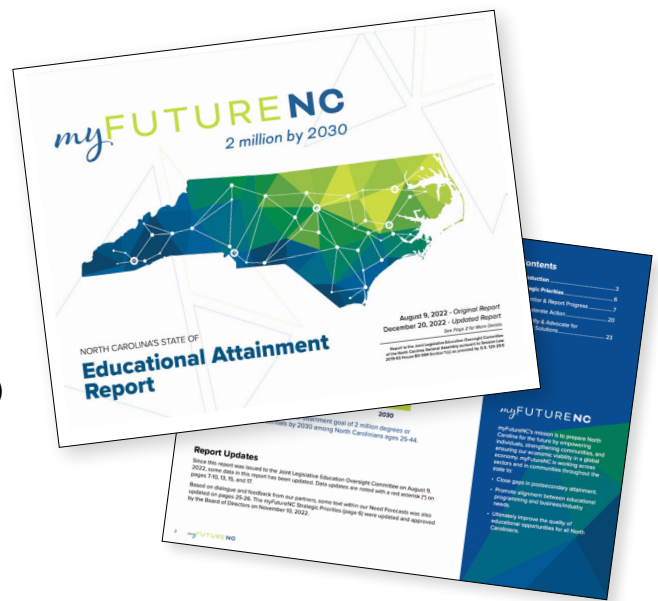
We believe a better educated  
**North Carolina** is the key to  
economic prosperity and upward  
mobility for all citizens.

# MONITOR & REPORT PROGRESS

The data shows that while some metrics are trending in the right direction, the majority are flatlined or lagging. **The good news is... there is a path forward.** Please read more about NC educational attainment progress in the [2022 North Carolina's State of Educational Attainment Report](#) which celebrates success stories across the state, and forecasts needs and solutions.

We must meet the talent pipeline needs and create opportunities for all North Carolinians. It is critical that we identify attainment trends, gaps, and most importantly, develop solutions with our partners in order to equip leaders and policymakers to prioritize resources and drive change. Leveraging our data and research, myFutureNC partners with Carolina Demography at UNC, education sectors, and commerce to produce and share these data products widely.

- [Degree Ticker and Progress Toward 2 Million by 2030](#)
- [Key Performance Indicators](#): The myFutureNC Commission identified and prioritized 18 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in four key transition areas:
  - » [Academic Readiness](#)
  - » [College & Career Access](#)
  - » [Postsecondary Completion](#)
  - » [Workforce Alignment](#)
- [2022 County Attainment Profiles](#)
- [Data Trends Workbook](#)
- [FAFSA Tracker](#)
- [Promising Practices Database](#) (Curated Best Practices Statewide)
- [Recommended County Attainment Goals](#)
- [2022 State of Educational Attainment Report](#) (Required by the General Assembly - prepared for a broad audience)



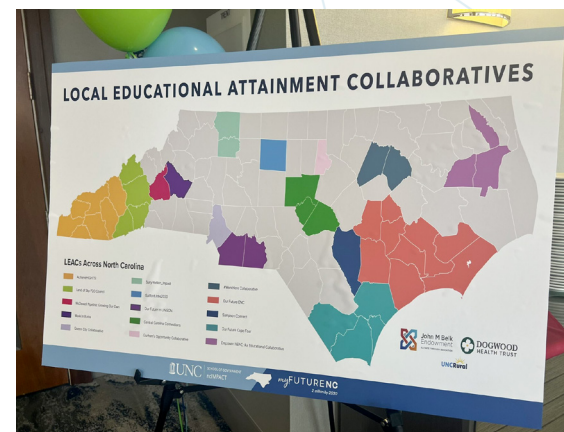
# ACCELERATE ACTION

myFutureNC is dedicated to assisting and improving the capacity and transformational impact of communities by helping them to align state and local educational attainment goals and structures through data tools and resources, and by improving governance and supporting collaboration so that local economies flourish and the work of those communities are sustainable as a result.

## LOCAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT COLLABORATIVES

### 15 Serving 42 Counties

myFutureNC partnered with the UNC School of Government's ncIMPACT Initiative to establish [15 Local Educational Attainment Collaboratives](#) representing 42 counties throughout NC. In partnership with Carolina Demography, local attainment goals have been recommended for every county to consider, and these cross-sector partnerships have either adopted those local goals or set their own to feed into the statewide 2 million by 2030 goal. myFutureNC supports the work through our regional impact managers who help teams and other emerging collaborations develop best practices for implementation.

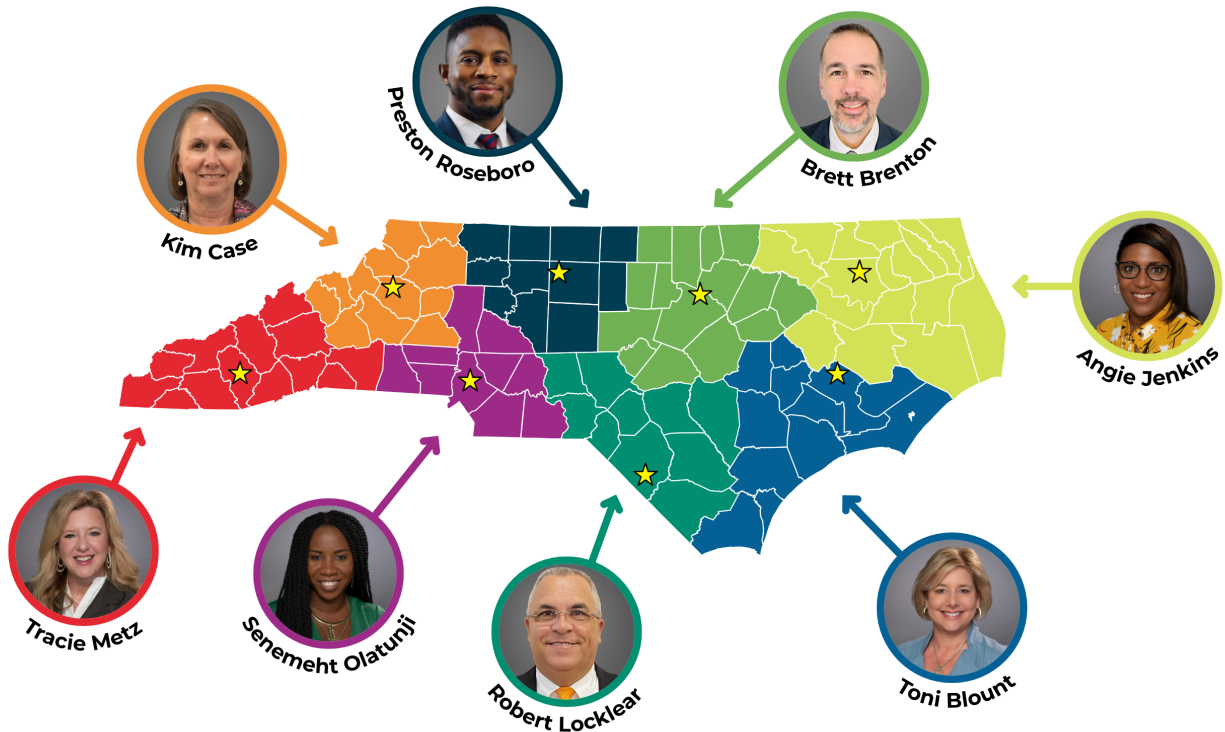


## REGIONAL IMPACT MANAGERS

Increased from 4 to 8

We expanded our Regional Impact Manager (RIM) Team from 4 to 8 to align with the 8 prosperity zones aligned with NC Commerce and the Department of Public Instruction. RIMs support the unique and differentiated attainment journeys in each county by supporting and activating resources; however, depending on the need, they may also provide direct support and coaching.

## REGIONAL IMPACT MANAGERS



Reach out to our Regional Impact Managers to learn more about how you can work to increase attainment in your area of North Carolina:

### NORTHWEST

**Dr. Kim Case**

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### NORTH CENTRAL

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### WEST

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## FAFSA CAMPAIGN

### NC Increased from 27th to 15th Nationally

As the result of a spring 2022 10-week FAFSA campaign North Carolina moved from a ranking of 27th to 15th nationally, and **12,827** additional students completed the FAFSA.

**NC Increased  
from 27th to  
15th Nationally  
in 2022.**

Access to an affordable opportunity is often a barrier to success, yet North Carolina left

# \$126 million

in Federal unclaimed dollars.

### Why is it important for every high school senior to complete the FAFSA?

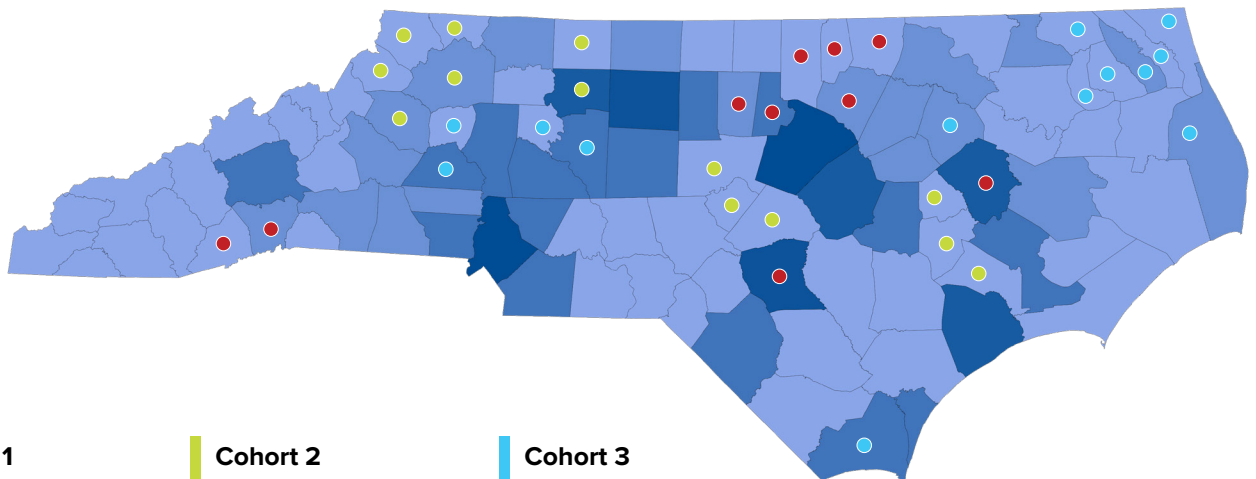
Completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required for students to be eligible for Federal Pell grants, state need-based grants, and scholarships. Increasing FAFSA completion rates continues to be a statewide focus, as research indicates that students who complete the FAFSA are more likely to attend college and persist in their studies.

## NC RECONNECT

### Cohort 3

With approximately 329,000 North Carolinians ages 25-44 having some college but no degree, [NC Reconnect](#), a pilot program sponsored by the John M. Belk Endowment, in partnership with myFutureNC, the NC Community College System, and the Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research, has expanded to five additional community colleges. This initiative is aimed at enrolling and credentialing adult learners. Brunswick, Catawba Valley, College of The Albemarle, Davidson-Davie and Edgecombe community colleges are the third cohort of institutions to participate in this initiative and receive partner support.

A new resource for community colleges across the state, the [Adult Learner Guidebook](#) synthesizes lessons learned from the NC Reconnect “Better Skills, Better Jobs” campaign, which was launched by [John M. Belk Endowment](#) in 2021 to reengage with adult learners who had some college credit but no degree or credential.



#### 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

#### Cohort 3

Catawba Valley CC  
Davidson Davie CC  
Brunswick CC  
Edgecombe CC  
College of the Albemarle

# of potential adult learners





## NC WORKFORCE CREDENTIALS

To remain economically competitive, North Carolina must meet the talent pipeline needs and create opportunities for all. The [NC Workforce Advisory Council](#), facilitated by myFutureNC, is comprised of employers and education and workforce development partners from across the state. The Council is focused on ensuring non-degree training being offered by our education and workforce development systems is aligned with the needs of business and industry. The Council continues to convene and endorse [industry-valued, non-degree credentials](#), while also providing input on communication and outreach efforts to promote credentials, increase access to credentials, and build the state's capacity for credential data tracking.



Visit [NCCareers.org](https://www.nccareers.org) for a list of [industry-valued, non-degree credentials](#).



## DRIVING AWARENESS

### State-Led, But Locally Owned and Driven

In order to accelerate the good work underway across the state, myFutureNC continues to create spaces for education and workforce leaders at the state and local levels to collaborate on high-impact strategies, especially those that affect students at key transition points in the education continuum. In 2022, myFutureNC co-hosted the following convenings.

- 8 convenings—one per each [NC Prosperity Zone](#)—in partnership with [North Carolina State's Institute for Emerging Issues](#), bringing together local leaders from all sectors (representation from 90 of all 100 NC counties). These powerful opportunities helped to jumpstart county-specific conversations to increase attainment locally.
- 7 convenings in partnership with [Leadership North Carolina](#) to inform, develop, and engage committed leaders by broadening their understanding of and involvement in issues and opportunities facing the state pertaining to educational attainment.

In 2023, the convenings will focus on underserved populations.

**Please Note:** myFutureNC staff drive awareness to a wide variety of audiences continuously and welcome the opportunity to share more with you and your organization on an on-going basis. Please contact us at [office@myfuturenc.org](mailto:office@myfuturenc.org).



## IDENTIFY & ADVOCATE FOR POLICY SOLUTIONS

The state's biennium budget, approved by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor in July, 2022, continues to move myFutureNC's priorities forward including:

### ACADEMIC READINESS

- Reimbursement rates for **NC Pre-K** providers were **increased by \$9 million**.
- The budget included **\$14.6 million** in funding for **124 literacy coaches and early learning specialists**, in line with the statewide push for the **Science of Reading** which aligns with myFutureNC's priorities.

### COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

- **\$55,000** was provided to the NC State Education Assistance Authority to support the **FAFSA Tracker Tool**.

### POST-SECONDARY COMPLETION

- A **\$500,000** grant was directed to myFutureNC to **study creation of an interconnected, real-time data system** to facilitate communication and transition of students between public schools, community colleges, and universities.
- Included recurring funding totaling **\$160,000** for the purchase of **National Student Clearinghouse** attainment data. This data is essential to myFutureNC's **100 county attainment profiles** and **statewide dashboard**.



myFutureNC is able to expand our work through generous donations and in-kind support. An investment in myFutureNC is an investment in North Carolina's future. [Support Our Mission](#)

