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.

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
Monitor & Report Progress .................................................. Page 2
Accelerate Action ................................................................. Page 2
Identify & Advocate for Policy Solutions ............................... Page 6

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

- **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**

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**LOCAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT COLLABORATIVES**

15 Serving 42 Counties

myFutureNC partnered with the UNC School of Government’s nclMPACT 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.

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
  - kim@myfuturenc.org
  - (828) 499-0176

- **NORTH CENTRAL**
  - Brett Brenton
  - brett@myfuturenc.org
  - (919) 449-6267

- **SOUTHEAST**
  - Toni Blount
  - toni@myfuturenc.org
  - (252) 670-4632

- **SOUTHWEST**
  - Senemeht Olatunji
  - senemeht@myfuturenc.org
  - (704) 584-9596

- **PIEDMONT-TRIAD**
  - Preston Roseboro
  - preston@myfuturenc.org
  - (704) 418-2827

- **NORTHEAST**
  - Dr. Angie Jenkins
  - angie@myfuturenc.org
  - (252) 287-8991

- **SANDHILLS**
  - Dr. Robert Locklear
  - robert@myfuturenc.org
  - (910) 374-5728

- **WEST**
  - Dr. Tracie Metz
  - tracie@myfuturenc.org
  - (828) 226-3049
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. 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.

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

Access to an affordable opportunity is often a barrier to success, yet North Carolina left $126 million in Federal unclaimed dollars.

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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 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.
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