



**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Higher Education

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Megan McDermott, Director of Communications

Office: 303-974-2495, Mobile: 720-394-3205, [megan.mcdermott@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:megan.mcdermott@dhe.state.co.us)

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**State announces new attainment numbers; shows overall increase plus growth among minority groups**

DENVER – Feb. 15, 2018: The Colorado Department of Higher Education today announced the statewide attainment rate increased from 55 percent in 2017 to 56.2 percent in 2018, measured by the number of adults ages 25-34 with a credential beyond a high school diploma. The new data also shows promising gains among Coloradans of color.

Last fall, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education released a strategic plan, *Colorado Rises*, which reaffirmed the 66 percent statewide attainment goal by 2025. The plan emphasizes increasing student completion and closing equity gaps for minority students as key strategies to boost postsecondary success.

Colorado has significant gaps in educational levels when measured by race and ethnicity. The share of Colorado's white majority population who have earned a credential is more than twice that of Hispanics and Latinos and almost 1.5 times the share of African Americans.

In 2018, the following ethnic groups saw an increase in attainment:

- Hispanic/Latino attainment grew from 28.5 percent to 28.8 percent
- African American attainment grew from 39.4 percent to 45 percent
- American Indian attainment grew from 28.5 percent to 37.7 percent

"We're delighted to see upward movement in the number of Coloradans earning a credential beyond a high school diploma," said Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, executive director for the Colorado Department of Higher Education. "Education is a proven pathway to prosperity—and for so many, a path from poverty to prosperity. While we're certainly moving in the right direction, we have significant work to do to expand opportunity in our state."

Lumina Foundation recently released their [national](#) and [state](#) reports on attainment for adults ranging in age from 25-64, showing an increase in Colorado from 54.7 percent to 55.7 percent. According to Lumina, the national attainment rate for this population is 46 percent.

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