

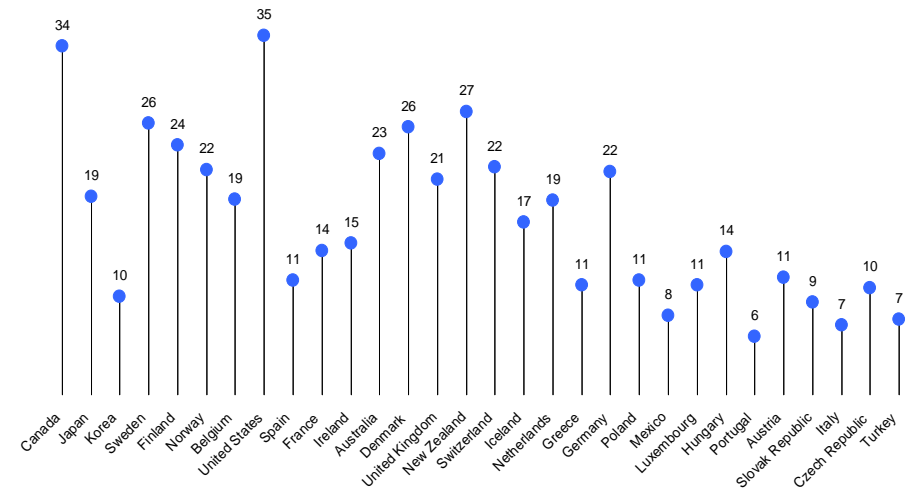
**Increasing Higher Education Attainment**  
The Emerging Policy Agenda in the United States

Dewayne Matthews  
Senior Research Director  
Lumina Foundation for Education

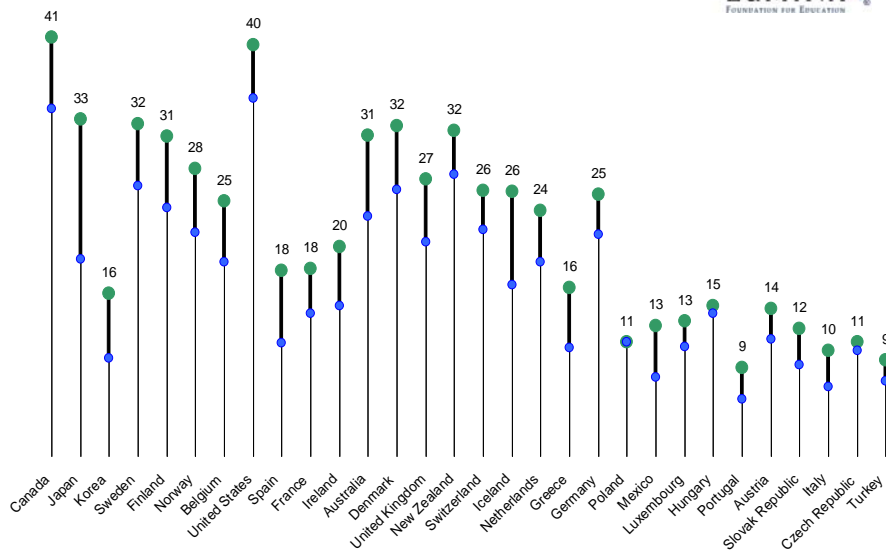
**Global Competitive, Locally Engaged  
Higher Education and the Regions**

**19-21 September 2007  
Valencia**

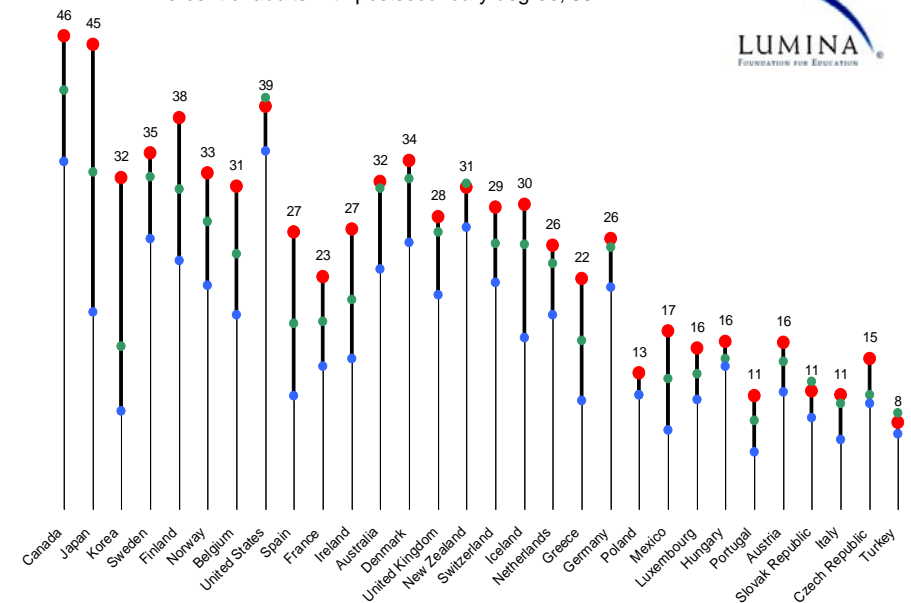
Percent of adults with postsecondary degree, 55-64

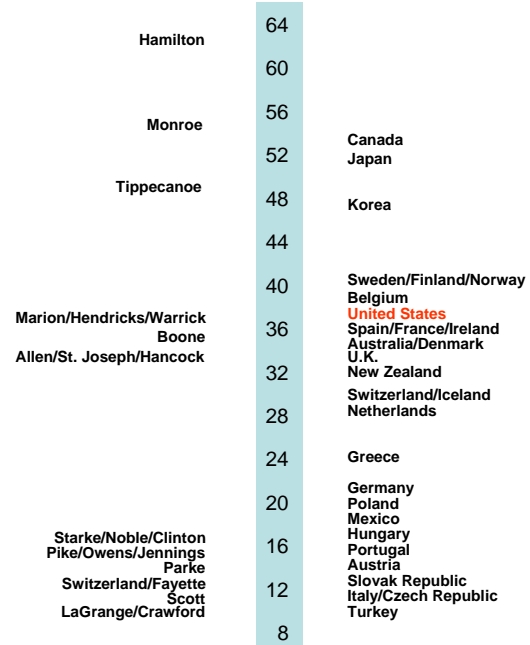
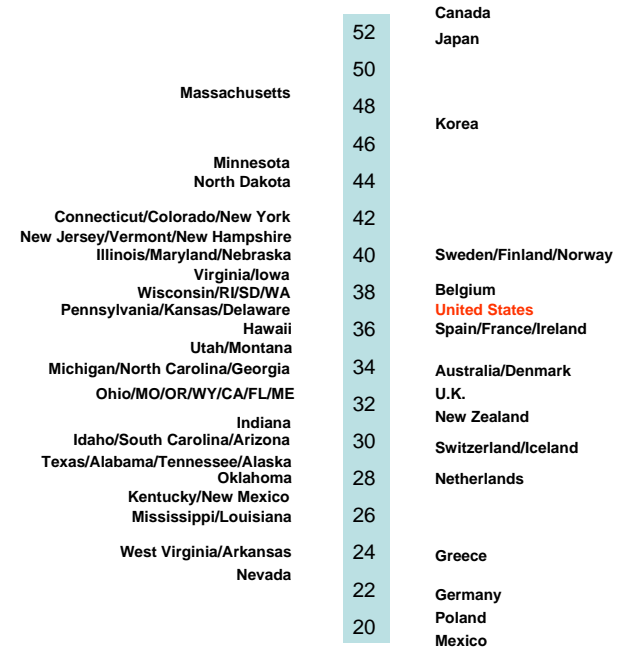
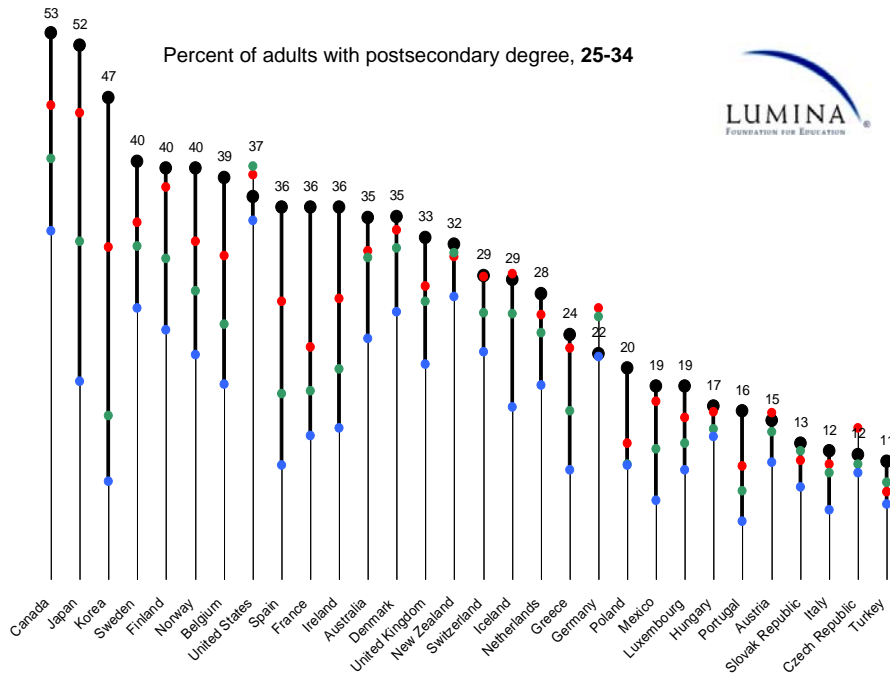


Percent of adults with postsecondary degree, 45-54

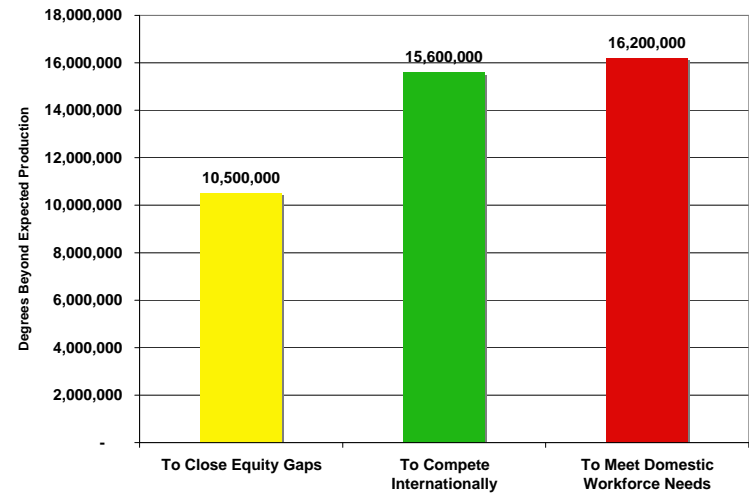


Percent of adults with postsecondary degree, 35-44

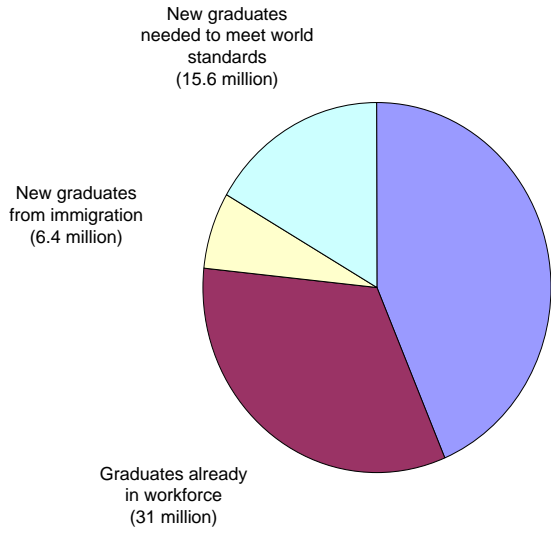




### Number of Degrees Required Beyond Expected Production, 2005 to 2025



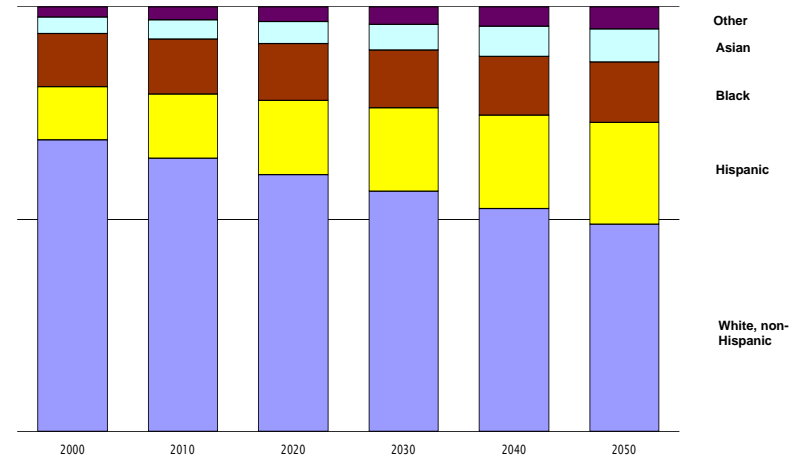
SOURCE: NCHEMS



New graduates at current rates of production (41 million)

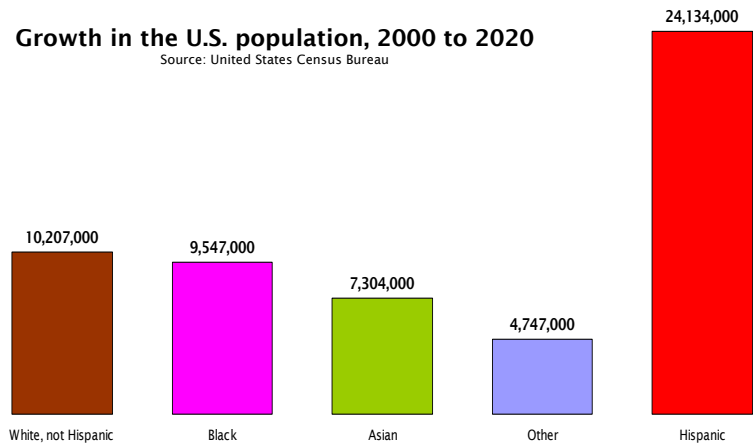
### Composition of the U.S. population, 2000 to 2050

Source: United States Census Bureau



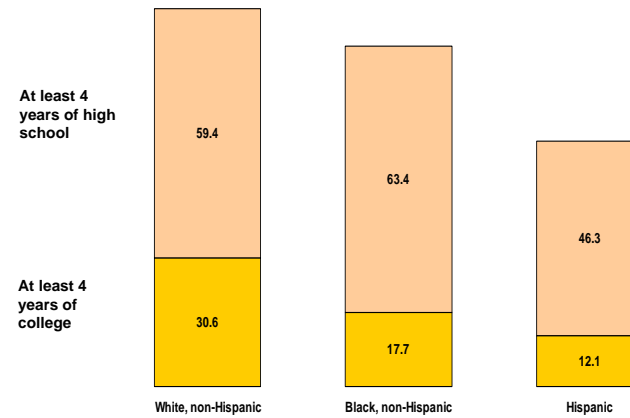
### Growth in the U.S. population, 2000 to 2020

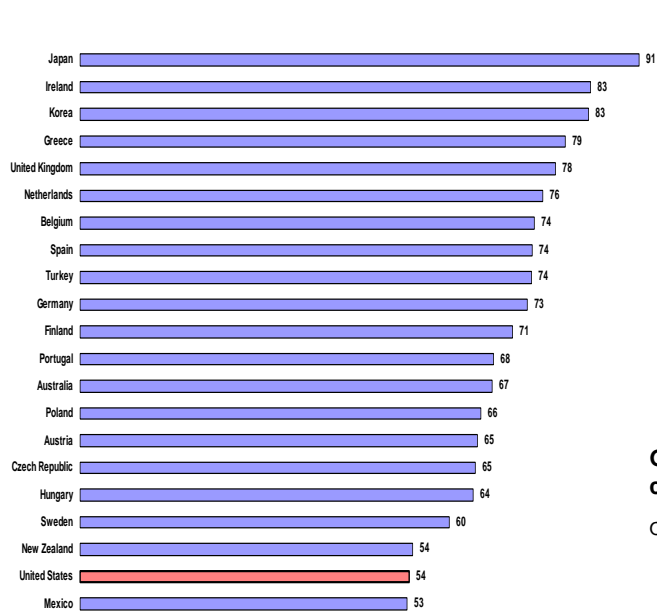
Source: United States Census Bureau



### Levels of educational attainment, 2000

Source: United States Census Bureau





**Graduation rates for college students**

OECD countries



**THE CHANGING AGENDA FOR COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS**



**All potential students should be prepared for success in higher education and the workplace.**

- Recent research by the Education Trust and others has shown that the preparation students need to be successful in college and the workplace is the same.
- Every young person and their family should know what it takes to go to and be successful in college (KnowHow2Go).
- High school curricula and standards must directly align with readiness for college.
- Accelerated learning options should be available for all students.

**THE CHANGING AGENDA FOR COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS**



**All potential students should have access to affordable high quality higher education opportunities.**

- Expand the capacity of the higher education system to serve more students, including community colleges and alternative providers.
- Assure that financial aid availability keeps up with increases in tuition and other costs, and is allocated on the basis of financial need.
- While declining public support of higher education institutions is an issue, higher education institutions must increase productivity and do a better job of controlling their costs.

**THE CHANGING AGENDA FOR COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS**



**Improve student outcomes from higher education.**

- Equity gaps in access and success must be closed.
- Increase college completion rates.
- Align higher education programs and outcomes with workforce needs (not just job skills).
- Develop more and better measures of students learning outcomes. (In their absence, colleges are evaluated based on input measures such as those used in the U.S. News and World Report rankings. Better measures of college learning outcomes are being developed by the Collegiate Learning Assessment and others.)

**THE CHANGING AGENDA  
FOR COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS**



**Better meet the needs of adult learners**

- Align policies and practices with adult learner needs, which differ from those of traditional students.
- Redesign delivery systems to meet the wide range of needs among adult learners.
- Develop better approaches and systems to meet the needs of marginalized adults, including second language learners, the working poor, displaced workers, and re-entry students.

**THE CHANGING AGENDA  
FOR COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS**



**Strengthen public policy setting and implementation for higher education**

- Improve accountability systems, particularly through the development of state-of-the-art student performance data systems. Without better data on college students, programs, and outcomes, it is difficult or impossible to make good decisions on reallocation of resources, strengthening academic programs, and improving student services.
- Through the involvement of all stakeholders, define a public agenda for higher education in the states that defines state needs and expectations from the higher education system and sets priorities for the allocation of public resources.