BOOSTING POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT IN THE MIDWEST
RISING ATTAINMENT, RISING WORKFORCE DEMAND

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, Recovery 2020, Job Growth and Education Requirements, 2013
The share of job openings that require some level of postsecondary education and training beyond high school is more than 60 percent in Midwest states.
What is a good job?

In defining a good job, we chose $35,000 ($17 per hour for a full-time job) as the minimum earnings for those under age 45, and $45,000 ($22 per hour for a full-time job) for workers age 45 and older.

In 2015, these good jobs paid an average of $55,000 per year.

Of the 30 million good jobs that do not require a Bachelor’s degree, 24 million pay more than $45,000 annually.

Source: Carnevale et al, Good Jobs that Pay without a BA, 2017.
The number of good jobs for workers with postsecondary education has increased since the 1990s.

Source: Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, Good Jobs that Pay without a BA, 2017.

• Nearly all of the growth in the non-BA economy has been in middle-skills jobs

• Good jobs for workers with associate’s degrees grew by 83 percent between 1991 and 2016

Underlying these trends was the decline in the manufacturing economy.

Technological change, globalization and upskilling are key factors that have made postsecondary education and training the dominant pathway to good jobs.

Both the northeast and midwest states were hit by the decline in good jobs.
TODAY, WORKERS WITH POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION HOLD 4 OUT OF 5 GOOD JOBS IN THE ECONOMY.

There are 13 million good jobs for workers with no more than a high school diploma, accounting for 20 percent of all good jobs.

Where we are with attainment

Postsecondary Attainment

Source: Lumina Foundation, Stronger Nation, 2019

Note: Attainment rates include the share with a certificate plus the share with an associate’s degree or more.
The number of high school graduates in the Midwest is expected to decline.

Percent change in the number of high school graduates relative to 2010

The Midwest and especially the Northeast have experienced out-migration (excluding movement from abroad).

* Regional 1-year migration data are not available for 1995.
** Data for the following years are: 2011 (2000 controls), 2010 (2000 controls), 2001 (2000 controls)
• Boosting attainment has become a critical goal to be pursued especially in light of demographic changes.

• Increasing attainment will require strategies to increase access and success for under-represented students across the country.

• Some of the most innovative attainment strategies bridge K-12 and postsecondary by focusing on students going directly from high school to college as well as adult learners.
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