

Media Contact:
Ashley J. Martinez
(813) 974-8606
amartinez@floridacollegeaccess.org

PRESS RELEASE
FLORIDA C.A.N.!
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, ALN 190
Tampa, FL 33620



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Florida's degree attainment rate rises 1%
State making progress, still room for improvement

Newly-released U.S. Census data shows the percent of college-educated Floridians is up for the sixth year in a row, with 39.9% of working-age adults holding an associate's degree or higher.

This increase translates to approximately 182,000 more Floridians ages 25-64 with an associate's degree or higher as of 2015. Over the past five years, Florida has increased its share of college-educated adults by 3.7%, the fifth highest improvement in the nation.

Although Florida's growing share of college-educated adults is a sign of progress, the state still lags the national average (40.9%) and ranks 29th of all states.

"Florida's steady progress in recent years is good news, but we still have room for improvement," said Florida CAN executive director Laurie Meggesin. "Labor economists predict over 60% of all jobs in Florida will soon require some form of postsecondary education, so we need to ensure our students have the credentials they need to fill those jobs."

In addition to the Floridians who hold a college degree, [a recent report from Lumina Foundation](#) estimates an additional 7% hold a postsecondary certificate. This is an encouraging finding, as many of Florida's fastest growing occupations require such credentials.

To view degree attainment rates for Florida and all other states since 2009, [view this table prepared by Florida CAN](#).

About Florida College Access Network

The mission of the Florida College Access Network is to create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college & career preparation, access, and completion for all students. Our Big Goal is to increase the percentage of Florida residents who hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential to 60% by the year 2025. For more information, visit www.floridacollegeaccess.org.

###