



Closing the Opportunity Gap

A Key Strategy for Building Stronger Communities

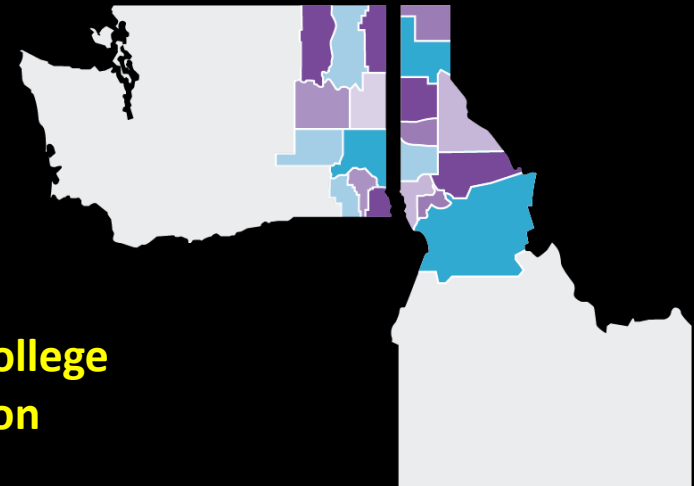
Innovia Leadership Summit

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Spokane, WA



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The Challenges of Building A Stronger Nation

Balancing Security,
Prosperity, and the Environment

Safety and
Security



Prosperity



Environmental
Sustainability

**A Strategy for
Job Creation
and Improved
Earnings**

**Jobs, Wages, and
Standard of Living**

Productivity*

**Innovation and
Entrepreneurship**

Talent

Investment

Infrastructure

*Improving Productivity will require more innovative uses of existing resources.

Drivers of Economic Development

Talent (Increase Attainment)

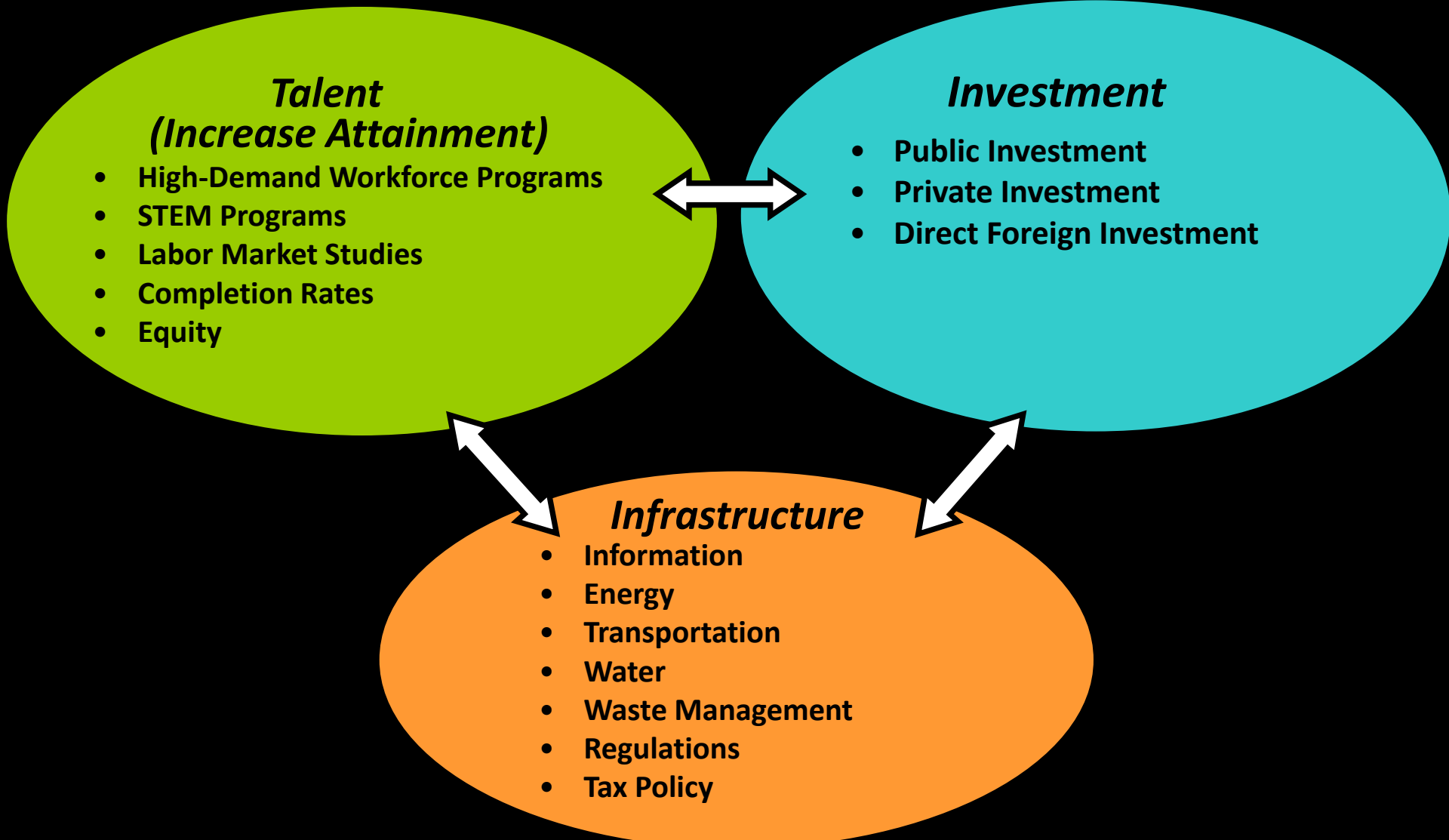
- High-Demand Workforce Programs
- STEM Programs
- Labor Market Studies
- Completion Rates
- Equity

Investment

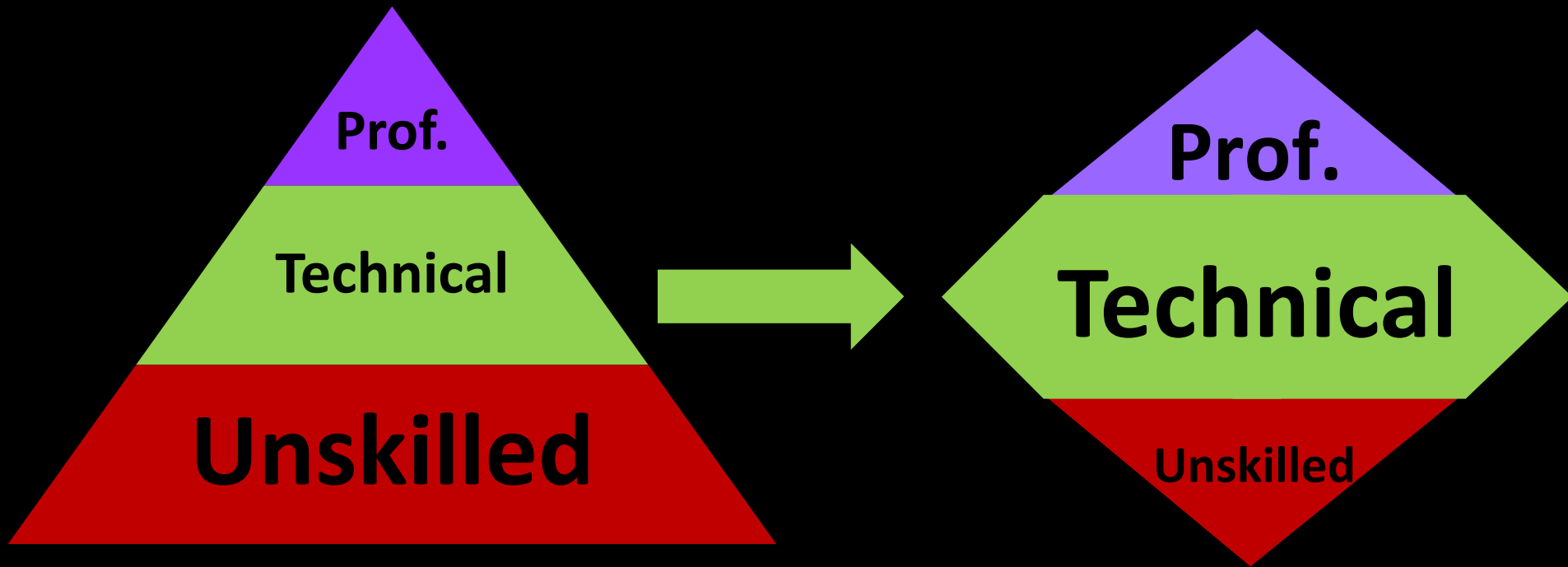
- Public Investment
- Private Investment
- Direct Foreign Investment

Infrastructure

- Information
- Energy
- Transportation
- Water
- Waste Management
- Regulations
- Tax Policy



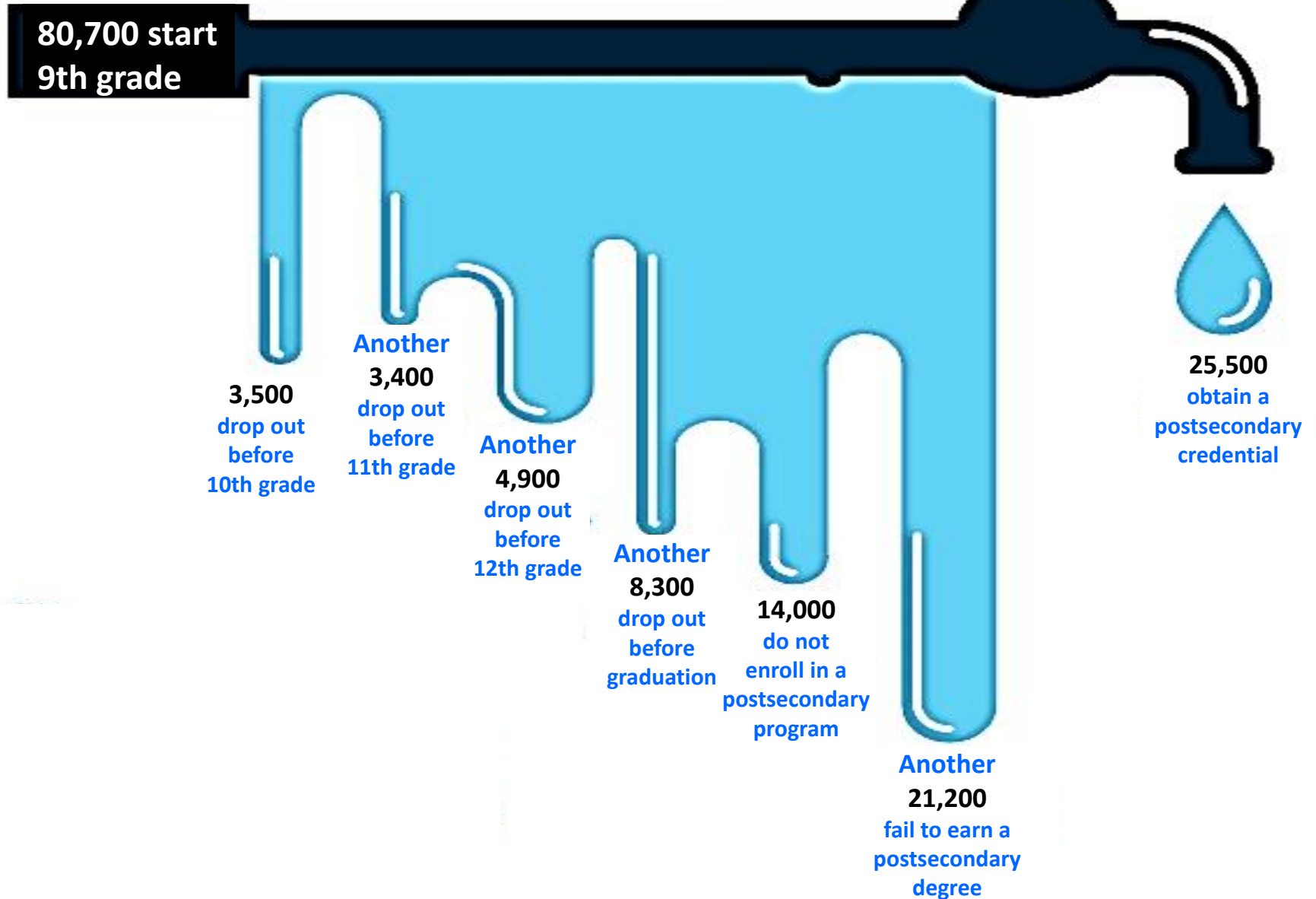
Make Talent A Top Priority



Washington State's Talent Challenge (The Skills Gap)

- Lack of highly-skilled workers hindering economic growth
- 740,000 job openings in Washington State between 2016-2021
- Only 31 percent of high school students go on to earn a Postsecondary Credential
- Need 70 percent of students to earn credential by age 26
- 38,000 job openings per year for credentialed candidates, but only 25,000 will be Washington students
- Need to import 13,000 credentialed workers per year from out of state
- Face large number of low-income, first generation students with academic deficiencies.

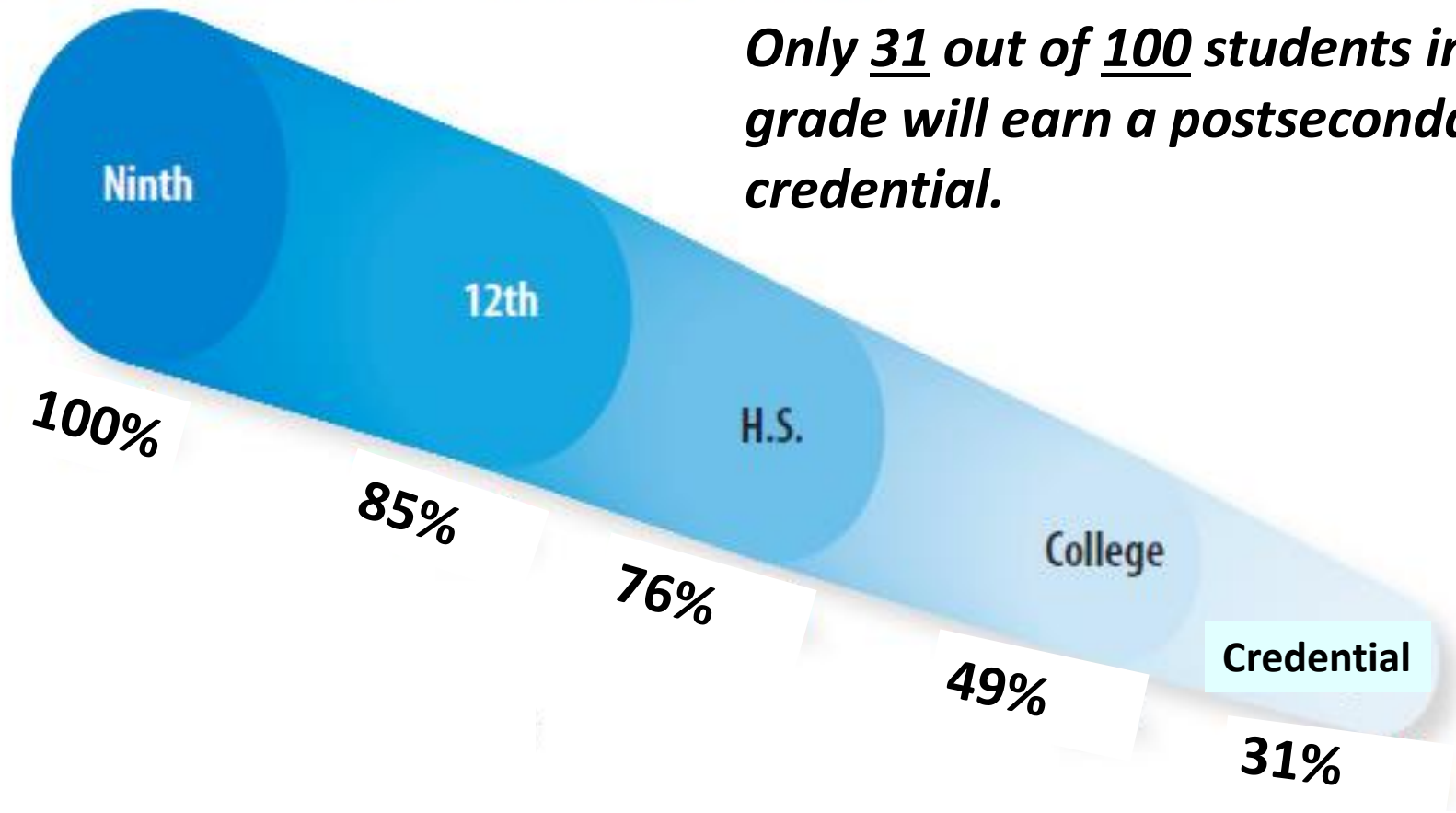
Washington students fall behind early and fall out over time.



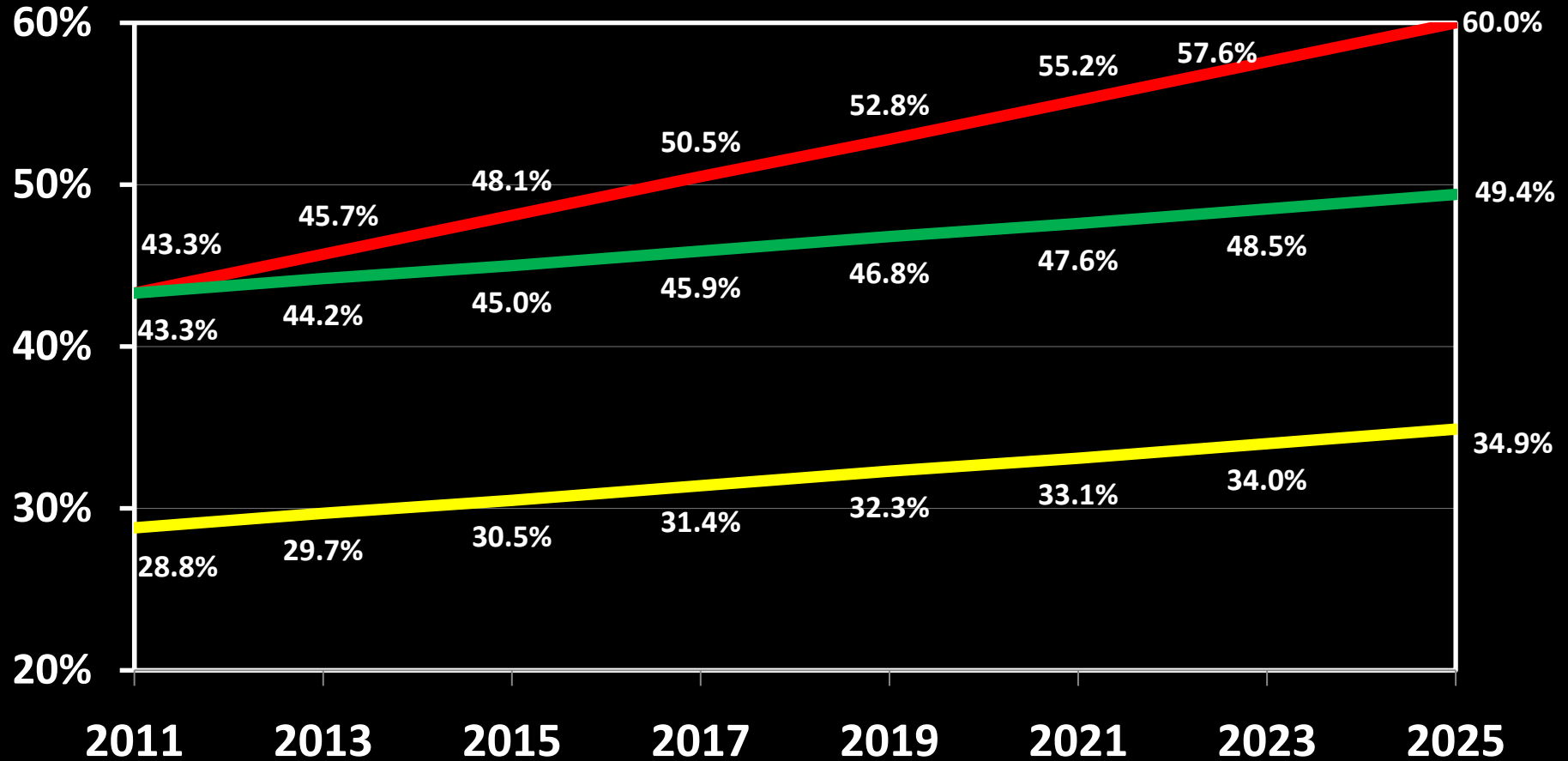
Talent Challenge

How did we fall behind?

Only 31 out of 100 students in ninth grade will earn a postsecondary credential.



The Path to 60% Degree Attainment in Asotin County



- Annual benchmarks (targets) for a straight-line trajectory for *Wash. State* to reach 60% attainment by 2025
- Expected percentages of *Wash. State* degree holders among 25- to 64-year-olds at the current rate
- Expected percentages of *Asotin County* degree holders among 25- to 64-year-olds at the current rate

Educational Attainment Rate by County, 2018

Washington State Counties

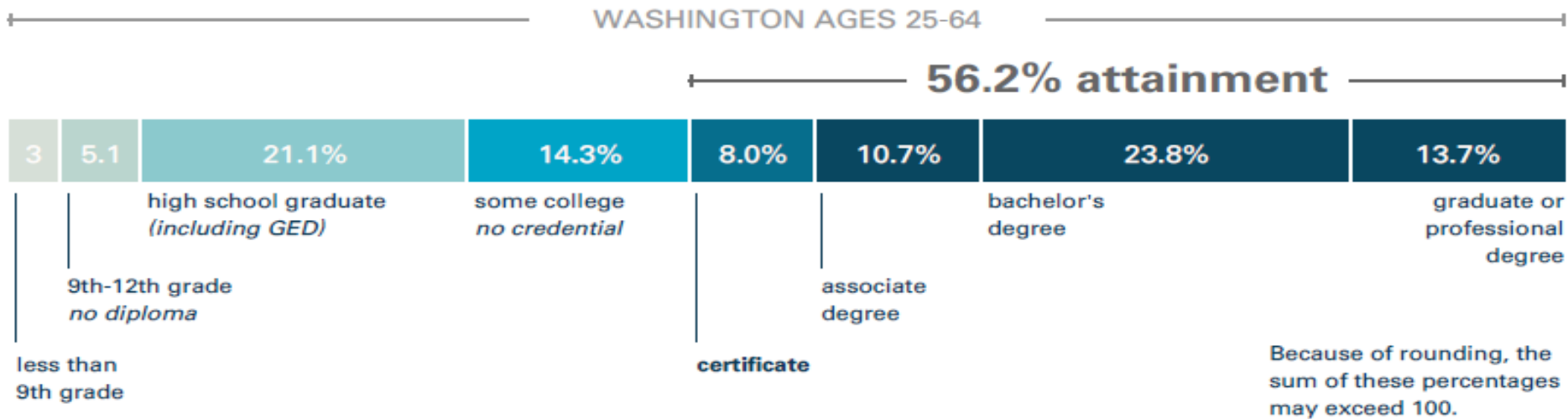
1.	Adams	20.3
2.	Asotin	33.9
3.	Columbia	47.8
4.	Ferry / Boundary	25.1
5.	Garfield	42.1
6.	Lincoln	37.1
7.	Pend Oreille	32.8
8.	Spokane	44.8
9.	Stevens	29.4
10.	Whitman	63.6

Idaho Counties

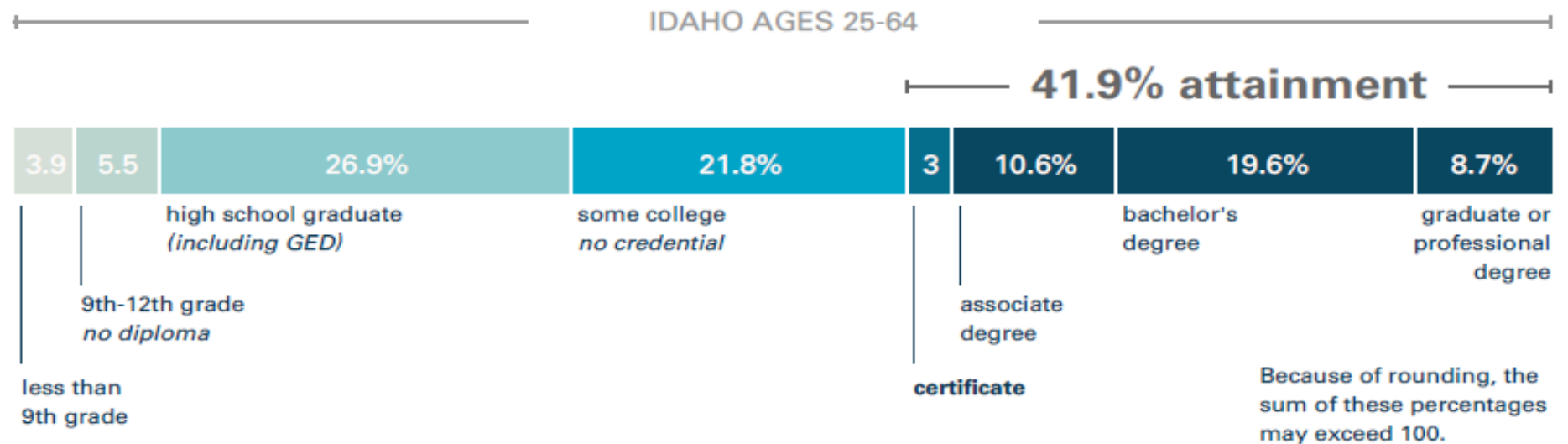
1.	Benewah	25.6
2.	Bonner	41.1
3.	Boundary	27.6
4.	Clearwater	22.3
5.	Idaho	29.4
6.	Kootenai	35.9
7.	Latah	56.8
8.	Lewis	29.9
9.	Nez Perce	34.4
10.	Shoshone	23.3

Washington / Idaho Education Levels

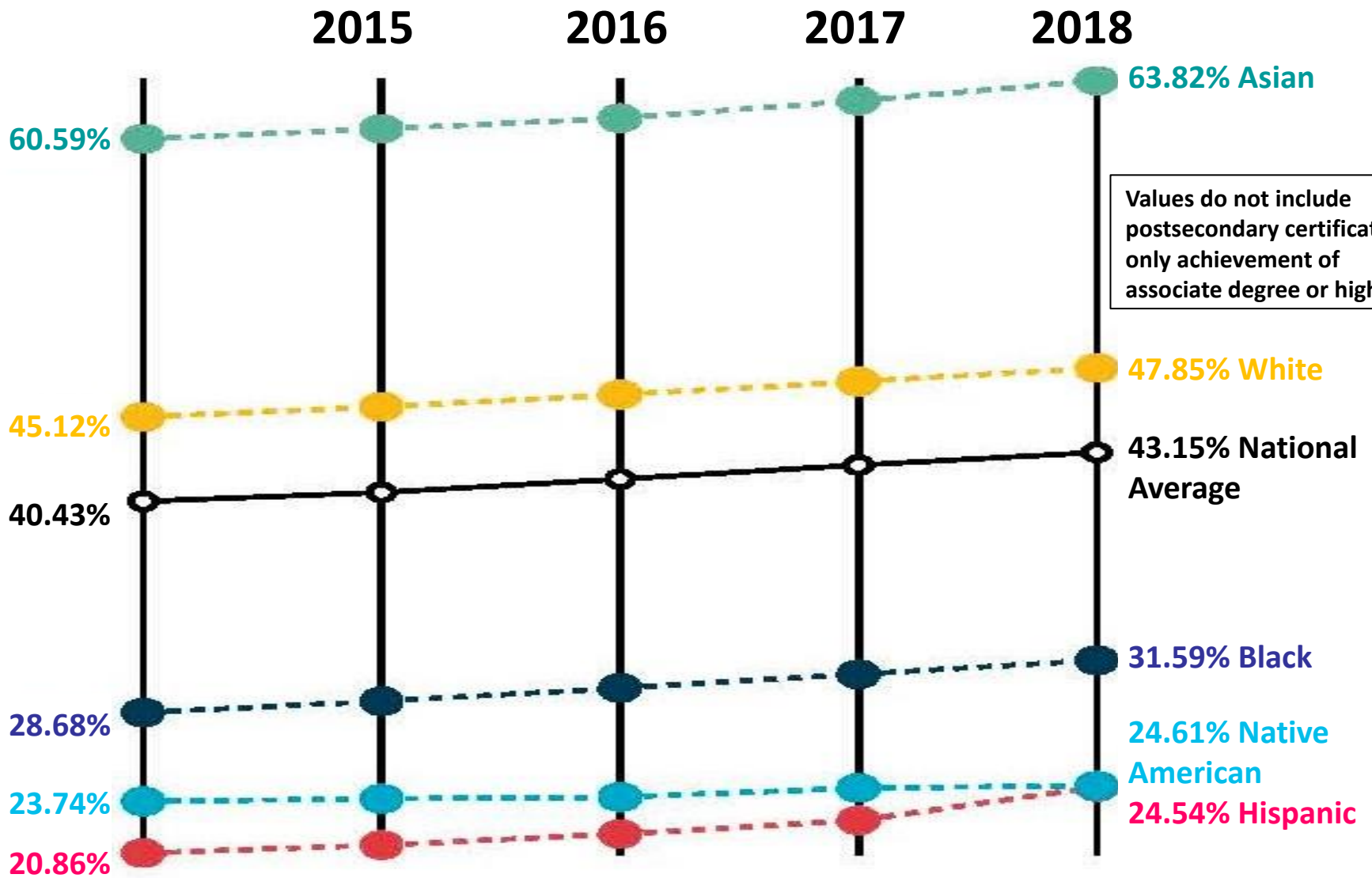
Highest Education Level Across Washington



Highest Education Level Across Idaho



Gaps by Race and Ethnicity



Educational Attainment Rates by Race and Ethnicity

filter by RACE AND ETHNICITY

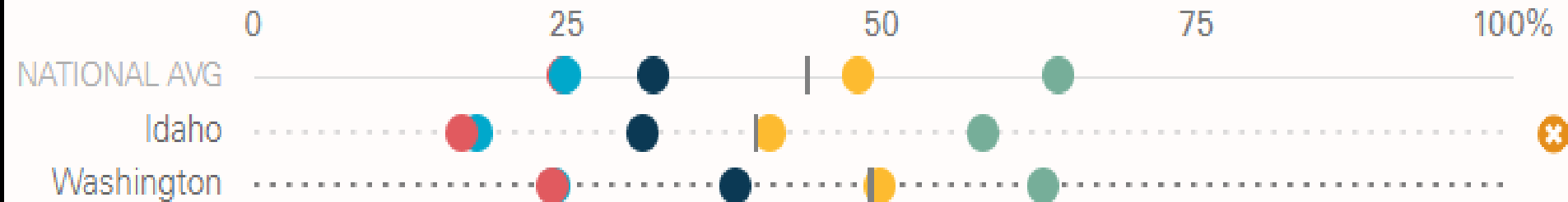
sort by STATE NAME ▼▲

- Asian and Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- African-American
- White
- American Indian

POPULATION ▼▲

*ATTAINMENT ▼▲

ENROLLMENT ▼▲



Six Strategies for Improving Student Success

- 1. Create clear pathways aimed at clear results.**
- 2. Alignment based on partnerships and economic studies.**
- 3. Continuous measurement and improvement of learning outcomes.**
- 4. Measure student progress before and after completion.**
- 5. Use innovative technologies and entrepreneurial strategies to improve effectiveness and efficiencies of instructional delivery.**
- 6. Help every student finish what they start!**
 - Completion Coaches**
 - Software applications to support advising**
 - Aim for higher completion rate**

Success Defined

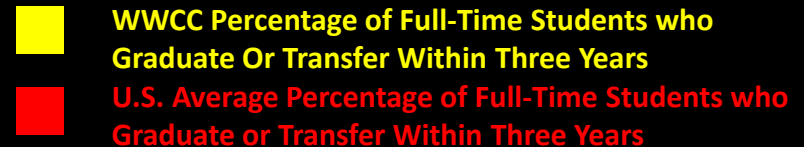
Prepared by the Aspen Institute 2013

Completion/Transfer Outcomes

Within three years of entering Walla Walla Community College, over half of full-time students graduate or transfer.

54%

40%



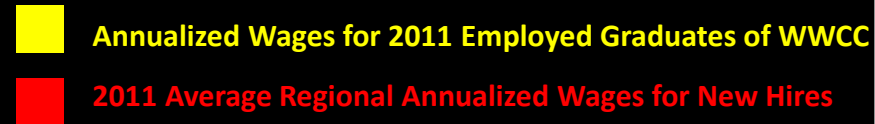
Source: Federal IPEDS Data 2008-10

Labor Market Outcomes

Washington state records show that 2011 graduates of Walla Walla earn 79% more – on average – than do other new hires in the area around the college.

\$41,548

\$23,244



Source: Washington State Wage Records, U.S. Census Bureau

Learning Outcomes

Walla Walla maintains strong relationships with employers to assess whether what students learn is aligned to specific job needs.

Equity

Walla Walla enrolls a larger proportion of underrepresented minority students than is present in the college's service area. And, underrepresented minorities at Walla Walla succeed at rates well above the national average.

Three-Year Full-Time Graduation and Transfer Rate for Underrepresented Minorities

48%

34%



Source: Federal IPEDS Data 2008-10

Opportunity Gap DEFINED

Achievement Gap

- Focuses on disparity in academic outcomes.
- Uses measurable outcomes driven by student performance.
- Tends to blame students for not performing as they should.

Opportunity Gap

- Focuses on arbitrary circumstances in which people are born to determine their opportunities in life.
- Places responsibility on the system to provide opportunity (conditions/obstacles) for all students to succeed.
- Implies, given the resources/opportunities to learn, students can succeed.

Actions to Close the Opportunity Gap

- Expand access to quality early childhood education.
- Invest in families.
- Reduce homelessness.
- Ensure children have nutritious food.
- Support the ongoing development of a high quality education system.
- Support the entry of high school graduates into post-secondary education or training via promise scholarships.
- Increase career-oriented youth employment opportunities.
- Build a network of community leaders to develop a strategy, secure funding, and champion opportunities for student success.

SEATech Skills Center

(Southeast Area Technical Skills Center)
On the Walla Walla Community College Campus



Skills centers are established to provide access to comprehensive, industry-defined career and technical programs of study that prepare students for careers, employment, apprenticeships and/or post-secondary education.

Clarkston Workforce and Business Development Center



WWCC Center for Enology & Viticulture

Center of Innovation for the Wine Industry



***2006 Governor's Workforce and Economic
Development Best Practice Award***

Water & Environmental Center



***2010 Governor's Workforce and Economic Development
Best Practice Award***

and

2011 Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Leadership Award

The American Dream is at Risk for our Youth

- With hard work, ambition, and perseverance, you should have a shot at the American Dream.
- For too many youth, instead of talent and hard work determining their future well being, it's the zip code where they were born or live.
- 5.5 million young adults ages 16-24 are not in school or working.
- We need to rethink components of our educational, economic, and social systems as well as policies at the local, state, and national level.

“Today, more than ever, education equals opportunity. In fact, college-level learning is now seen as key – to individual prosperity, to economic security, and to the enduring strength of our democracy.”

Source: The Lumina Foundation, “A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education”