

NC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CREATING SUCCESS

REACH Collaborative Overview

November 18, 2021



Overview

- **What** is the REACH Collaborative?
- **Who** is involved?
- **Why** are we focused on this?
- **How** will we achieve our goals?

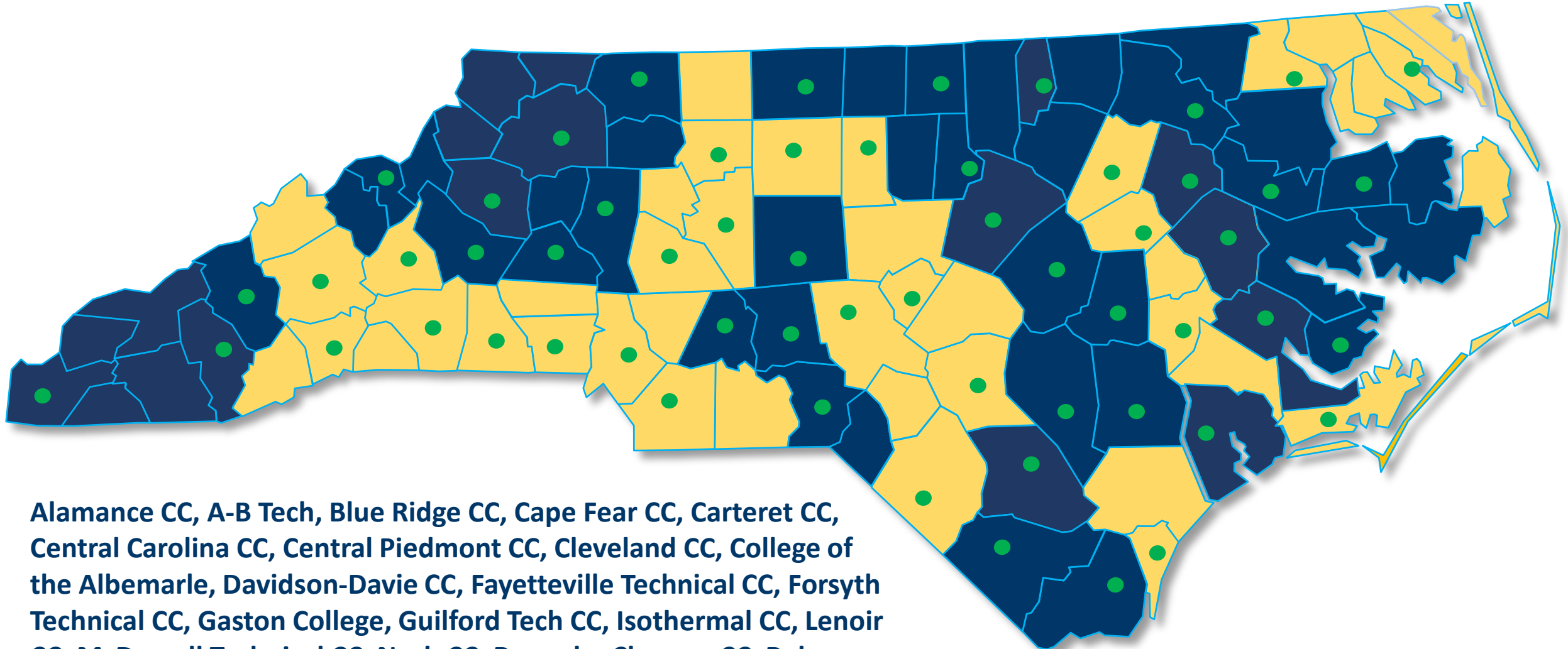


What is the REACH Collaborative?



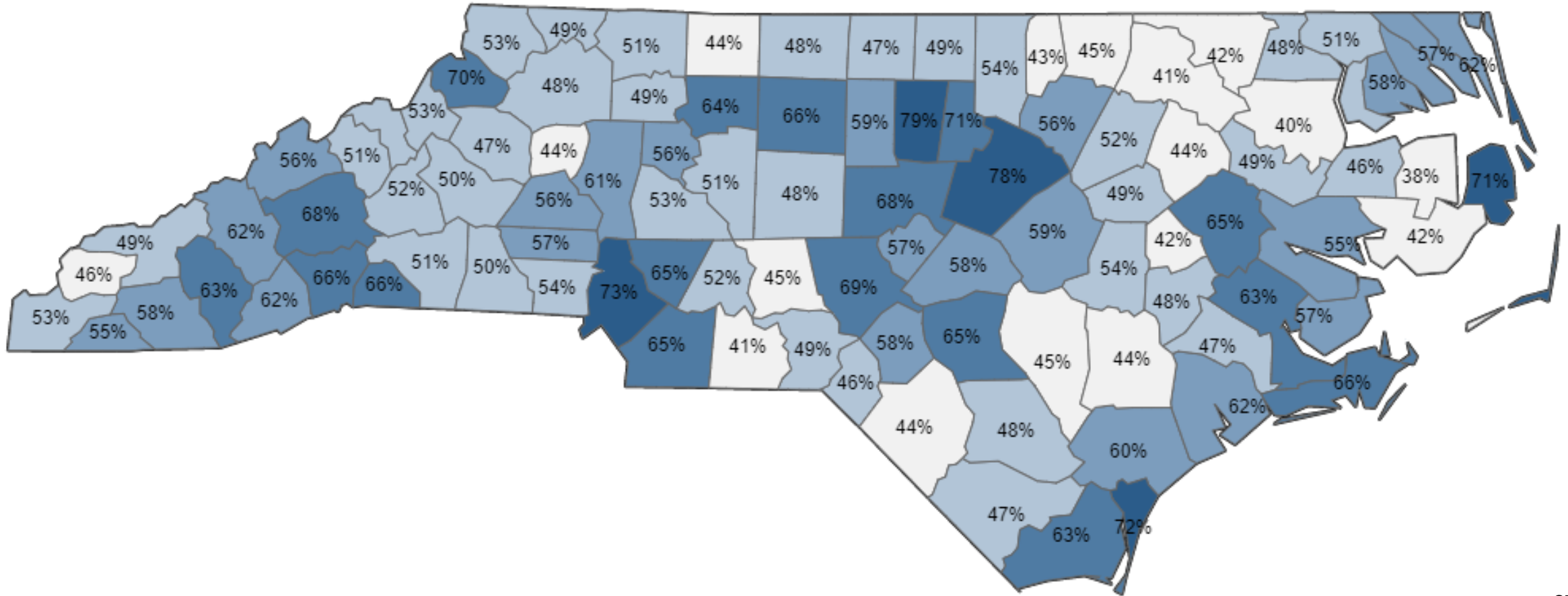
- REACH stands for Racial Equity for Adult Credentials in Higher Ed
- Project goal is a **two percent increase** in credential attainment for enrolled Black, Hispanic, and Native Americans ages 25-64 at participating colleges by 2023
- 24 NC Community Colleges are participating
- Six states (CA, CO, NC, NY, TX, VA) and 150+ community colleges are in the network
- Funded by Lumina Foundation and John M. Belk Endowment (co-investor in NC)
- Network partners include: Education Strategy Group (network management), Office of Community College Research and Leadership at the University of Illinois (equity resources for colleges), DVP-Praxis (research and evaluation), and Friday (communications and network collaboration)
- Project will run through May 2023

NC REACH Collaborative



Alamance CC, A-B Tech, Blue Ridge CC, Cape Fear CC, Carteret CC, Central Carolina CC, Central Piedmont CC, Cleveland CC, College of the Albemarle, Davidson-Davie CC, Fayetteville Technical CC, Forsyth Technical CC, Gaston College, Guilford Tech CC, Isothermal CC, Lenoir CC, McDowell Technical CC, Nash CC, Roanoke-Chowan CC, Robeson CC, Rowan-Cabarrus CC, Sandhills CC, South Piedmont CC, Wilson CC

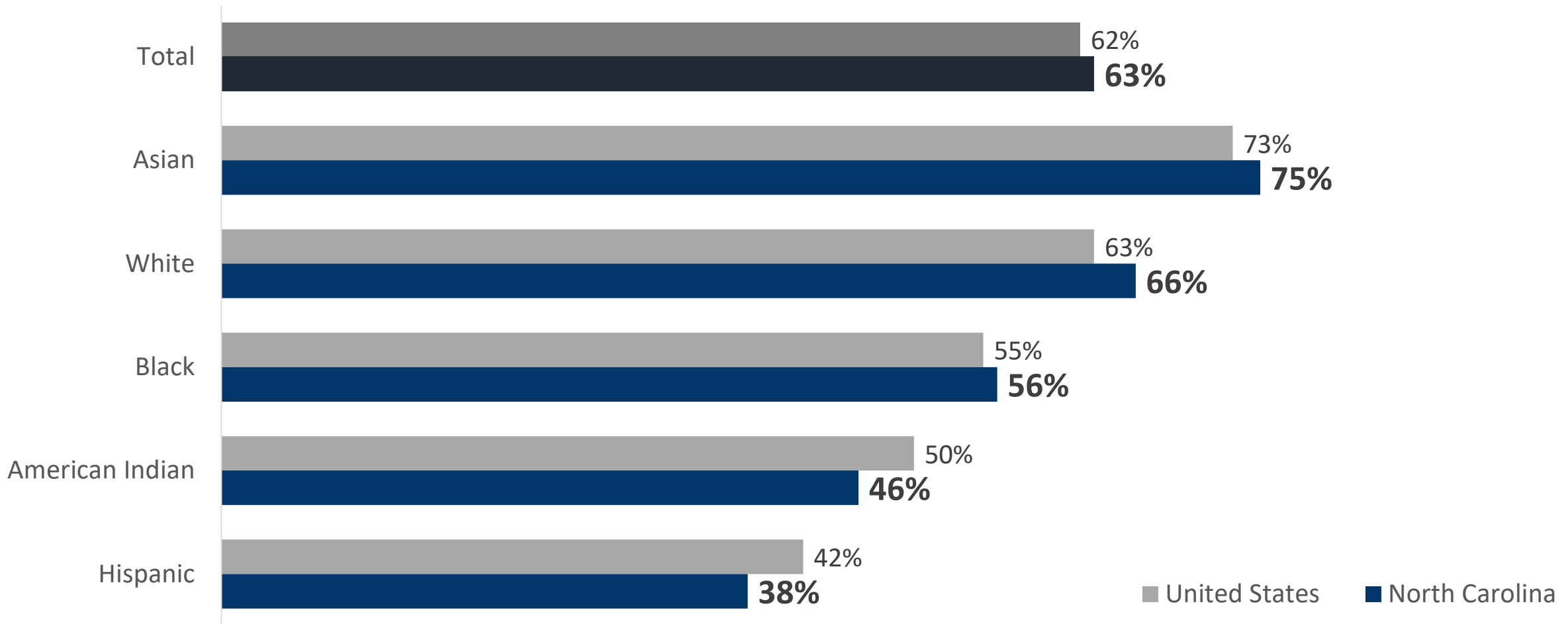
Why? Educational attainment is not equally distributed by county



U.S. Census Bureau: Percentage of Population 25 years and over with at least some College



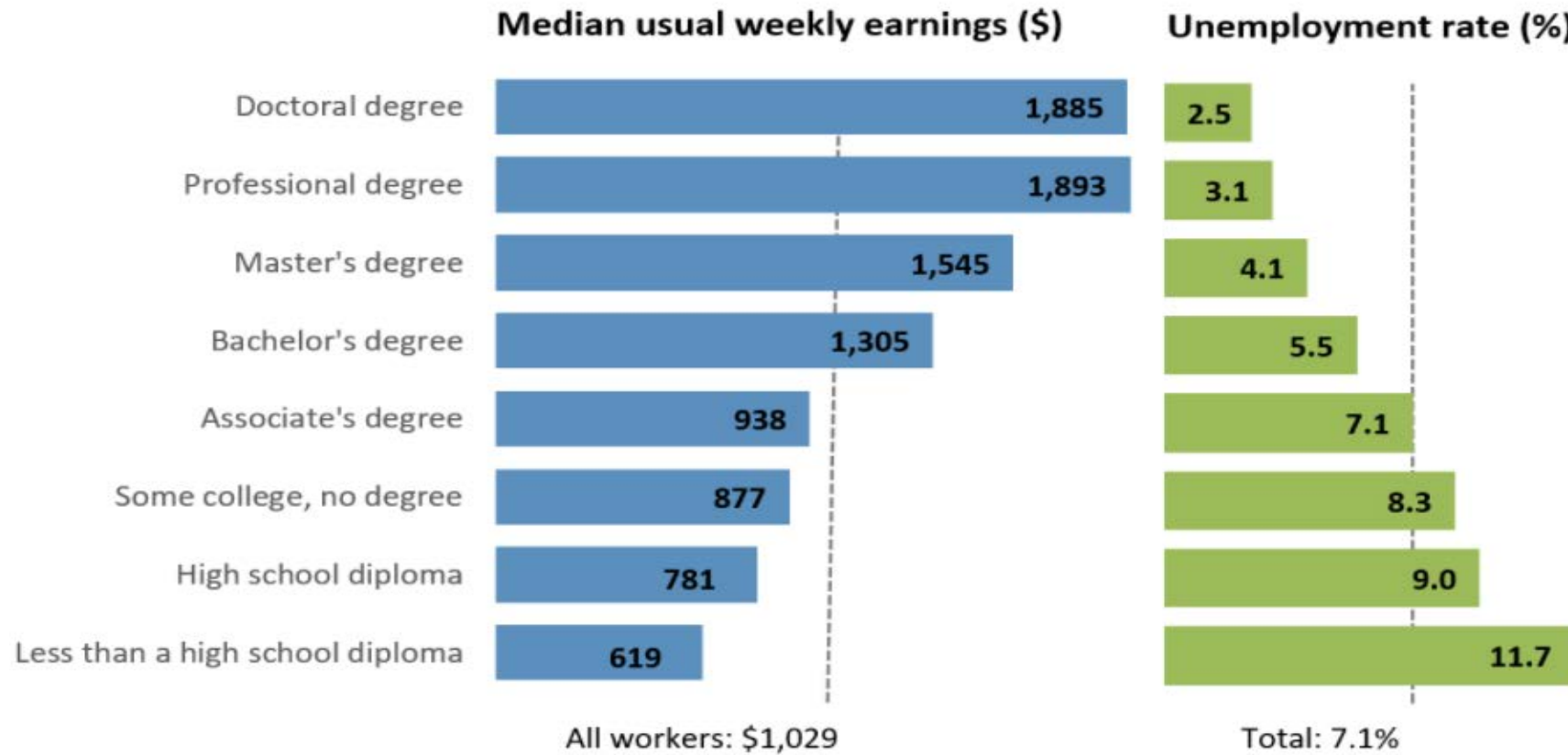
Why? Educational attainment is not equally distributed by race/ethnicity



U.S. Census Bureau: Percentage of Population 25 years and over with at least some College

Why? Education increases salary and employability

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2020



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
 Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.



Why? Adult learners want their education to connect to workforce opportunities

According to Strada-Gallup Education Surveys conducted in 2020:

- 2 in 3 (**68%**) adults considering enrolling in education in 2020 **prefer nondegree pathways**, up from 1 in 2 (**50%**) in 2019. (1)
- “Seventy-eight percent of those with a nondegree credential from a community college said it was worth the cost” (2)
- Fewer than 1 in 3 adults without degrees say they **understand available career pathways, valuable skills, and details about potential education programs** “very well”. (1)



NC REACH Collaborative Components

- 1) **Set Equity Goals** - Equity Coaches will work with colleges to review data and set strategic priorities for the project
- 2) **Identify Needs** – All colleges will conduct a needs assessment, which will inform delivery of training and supports
- 3) **Identify Pathways** - Colleges will identify four credential pathways with embedded short-term credentials leading to family-sustaining-wage jobs in their region
- 4) **Provide Training** - System Office and Student Success Center will provide trainings and professional development on providing supports tailored to the needs of adult learners of color
- 5) **Provide Supports** - System Project Team will provide mini-grants and technical assistance to colleges based on identified needs



NC Focus Area: Building Economic Equity for College & Career Readiness Students

- 70% of students in Adult Basic Skills (ABS) and English Language Learners (ELL) are student of color
- Less than 2% of Black, Hispanic or Native American students who complete 12 contact hours enroll in a postsecondary program
- We will establish a community of practice for colleges interested in implementing structured pathways for College and Career Readiness (CCR) students that accelerate credential attainment
- Additional resources from Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title II will be available to support that work