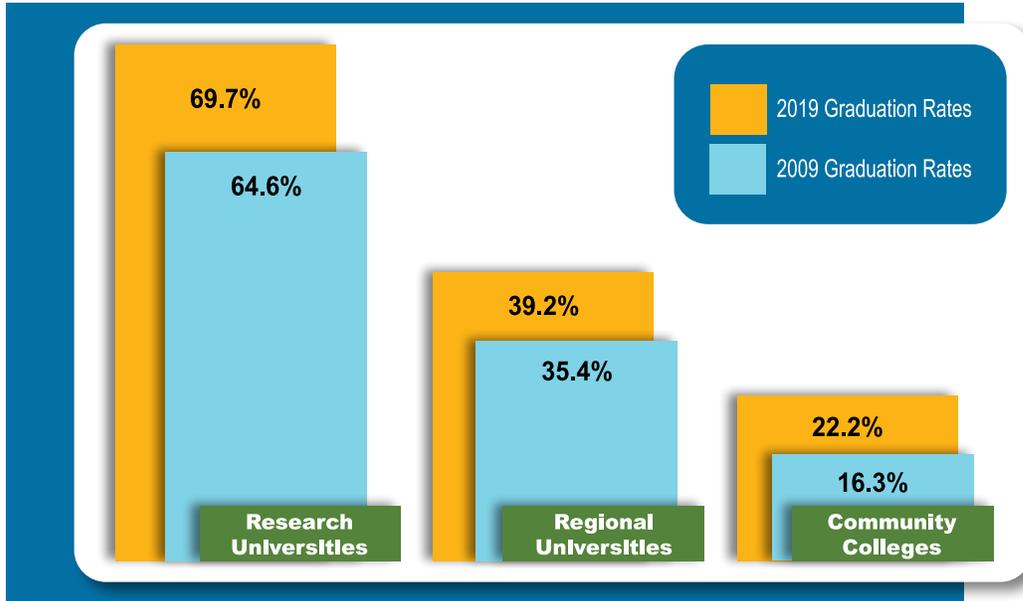


COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA

GOAL

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have identified college completion as their No. 1 goal and continue working to increase the number of degrees and certificates earned in Oklahoma by 67% by 2023.

The State Regents' engagement in Complete College America (CCA) is the most comprehensive and ambitious higher education initiative ever undertaken in the state. Oklahoma has been named a national model for CCA, with a plan focused on promoting college readiness, transforming remediation, strengthening pathways to certificates and degrees, expanding adult degree completion efforts, and rewarding performance and completion.



PROGRESS

Graduation rates at every tier in Oklahoma higher education have risen significantly in the 10 years since joining CCA, driving the state's economy by providing a more educated workforce.

Despite budget cuts to public higher education exceeding 26% since inception of our state's CCA initiative, Oklahoma's public and private colleges and universities and career technology centers have increased degree and certificate completion by more than 98% of the target benchmark to date. Within that growth is an exceptional increase in high paying, high demand STEM and health professions degrees. STEM degrees have increased by more than 54% in just the last nine years, and health care-related fields rank as the top degree producing area at the associate degree level, and among the top three at all degree levels.

Additionally, since joining the CCA initiative, the State Regents and our public colleges and universities have collaborated to implement various strategies to transform developmental education through changes to system-level policies and institutional practices. Aligning standards with the State Department of Education, working with campuses to develop innovative co-requisite course models, and an innovative math pathways approach, among other efforts, have resulted in a decrease in the direct-from-high school remediation rate from 40.1% to 34.6% since 2014.

Oklahoma has also made a concentrated effort to reengage adult students. The State Regents' Reach Higher adult degree completion programs provide welcoming environments with specialized advising and support systems for adult students to return and complete degrees in high-demand fields. To date, more than 10,000 students have completed a degree in the Reach Higher program. Grant funding has enabled expansion of specialized supports for Oklahoma adult learners and development of a prior learning assessment website, ShowWhatYouKnowOK.org, which empowers adults to earn college credit for knowledge gained through work and life experiences, non-degree-granting institutions, military training, or other learning environments.



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OKLAHOMA INITIATIVES

1

FOCUS ON COLLEGE READINESS

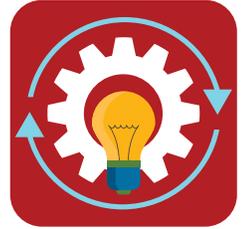
Higher education and K-12 are working together to develop and implement strategies that focus on better preparing high school students for success in college. Activities include strategic GEAR UP partnerships with school districts, targeting under-represented populations for concurrent enrollment, promoting math courses in the 12th grade, and aligning math curriculum in high school and college-level courses.



2

TRANSFORM REMEDIATION

Oklahoma public higher education institutions are implementing programs to improve the effectiveness of remediation for students who are identified as unprepared for college-level courses. Activities include better assessments, summer bridge and gateway programs, redesigned college-level courses that address student deficiencies without the need for a remedial course, and redesigned developmental education that allows more students to become proficient in a shorter amount of time.



3

STRENGTHEN PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

Our colleges and universities are implementing programs that create clear pathways to certificates and degrees, including creating multiple pathways based on groupings of majors, reverse transfer between community colleges and universities, creation of meaningful certificates as part of another degree, proactive student advisement, implementing flat rate tuition structures to encourage students to take 15 or more credit hours to decrease time-to-degree, and continuing cooperative agreement programs with technology centers through assessments, contractual arrangements, and limited technical course transfer.



4

INCREASE ADULT DEGREE COMPLETION

The Reach Higher FlexFinish and DirectComplete programs provide degree completion opportunities for adults who have some college credit, but have not completed an associate or bachelor's degree. The FlexFinish program offers flexible class options and enrollment to meet the needs of working adults pursuing a Reach Higher associate or bachelor's degree. Reach Higher DirectComplete, funded by a grant from Lumina Foundation and delivered in partnership with businesses, tribes, workforce agencies and nonprofits, offers comprehensive services and support to adult students returning to pursue degree programs that lead to employment in Oklahoma's critical occupations.



5

REWARD PERFORMANCE

The State Regents adopted a performance-based funding formula providing incentives to institutions that increase their degree completion rates, in addition to other performance factors.



OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Improving our future by degrees



COMPLETE
COLLEGE
AMERICA