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March 5, 2020

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Iowa makes progress toward reaching postsecondary attainment goal

DES MOINES – Iowa’s postsecondary educational attainment increased to 60.2% in 2019, growing by 2.6% from 57.6% reported in 2018. Iowa Workforce Development’s annual Laborshed Survey indicates an upward trend of postsecondary completion among Iowans. The data is also used to measure the state’s progress toward reaching the Future Ready Iowa goal of having 70 percent of Iowans with postsecondary credentials by 2025.

“Future Ready Iowa is making a difference for Iowans looking for a way up,” said Gov. Reynolds. “But we are just getting started, and today’s results don’t even consider the 6,000 Iowans who received a Last Dollar Scholarship in 2019 to get into a high-demand job. As more Iowans find the skills and training they need to move into a life-changing career, we can guarantee that opportunity lives here for decades to come.”

The survey data focuses on those 25 to 64 years of age to allow for postsecondary educational completion for the 18-24 age group. Additionally, there has been a decrease in Iowans without a high school diploma in the last decade.

“Under Governor Reynolds’ leadership, Iowa has begun to see increases in our overall education attainment and the 2.6% increase in 2019 is a positive sign of our progress,” said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development. “Given the 2019 data does not yet capture the results of the investments made to date in Future Ready Iowa programs like the Last-Dollar Scholarship and the Employer

Innovation Fund, we will hopefully see continued progress and by larger margins in coming years.”

Iowa Workforce Development’s Labor Market Information Division has conducted local area surveys for the past 20 years. Statewide surveys began in 2008.

Iowans between the ages of 18-64 are surveyed by phone or online and are asked about employment status, education level, and occupation. Analysis is based upon a total of 6,000 surveys that were taken by residents in every ZIP code across the state, with the total gathered in each ZIP code being based on its population.

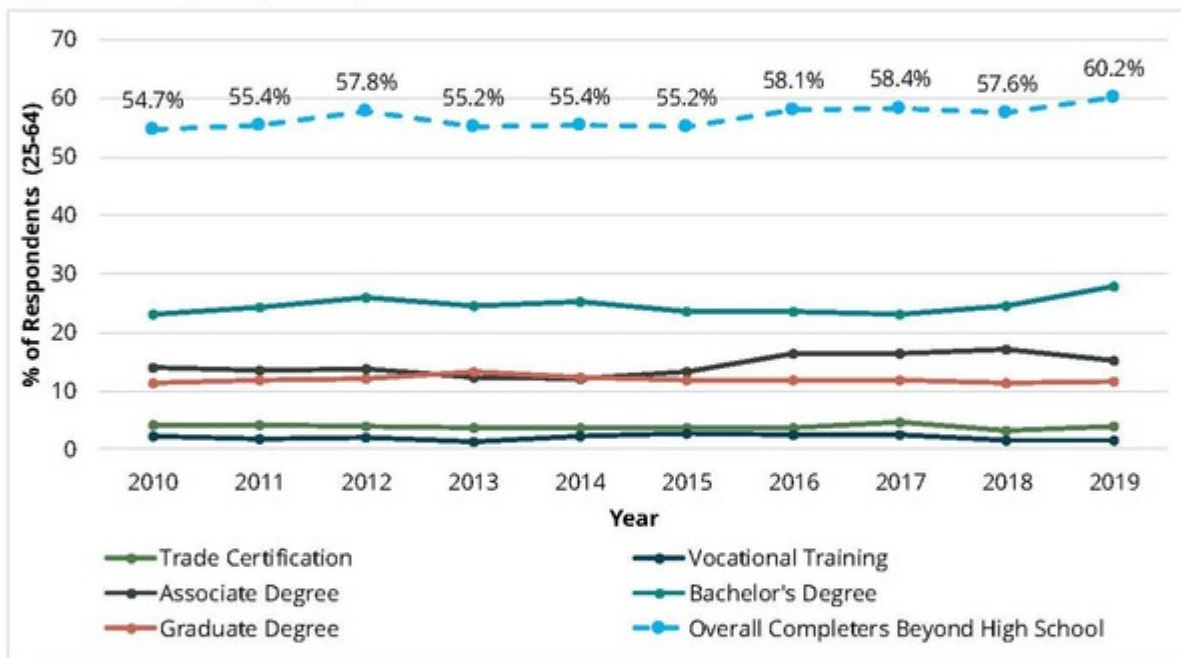
The full Laborshed Survey report will be available at the end of March on the following website: www.iowalmi.gov/laborshed

STATEWIDE LABORSHED SURVEY: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT DATA

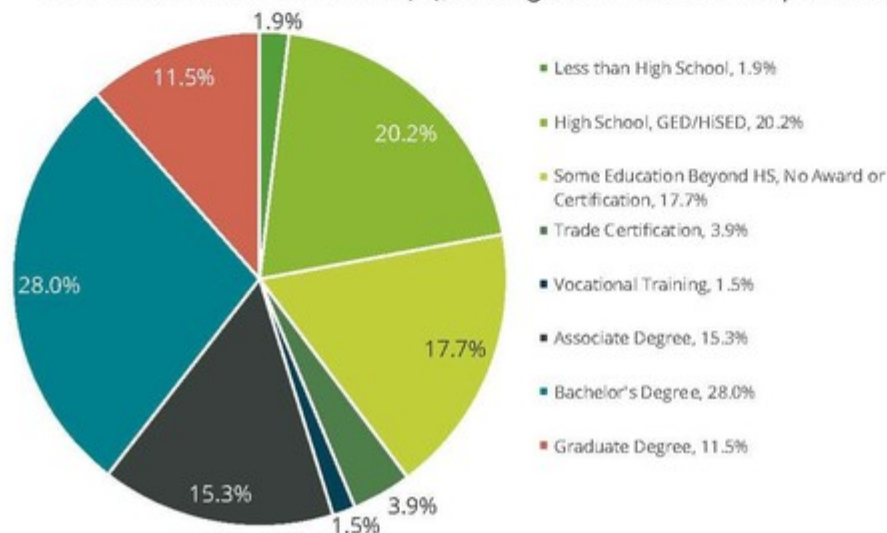
Highest Education Level Attained (%), among 25-64 Year-Old Respondents in Iowa (2010-2019)

Educational Attainment	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Less than High School	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.4	3.3	2.5	2.3	2.4	1.9
High School, GED/HISED	26.4	25.4	24.5	25.4	25.7	26.6	22.1	22.4	23.4	20.2
Some Education Beyond HS, No Award or Certification	16.4	16.9	15.3	16.9	16.5	14.9	17.3	16.9	16.6	17.7
Trade Certification	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.6	3.2	3.9
Vocational Training	2.2	1.8	2.0	1.4	2.2	2.8	2.6	2.5	1.6	1.5
Associate Degree	14.0	13.5	13.8	12.4	12.0	13.2	16.3	16.3	17.0	15.3
Bachelor's Degree	23.1	24.2	25.9	24.5	25.3	23.6	23.5	23.1	24.5	28.0
Graduate Degree	11.3	11.8	12.1	13.3	12.3	11.8	11.9	11.9	11.3	11.5
*Overall Completers Beyond High School	54.7	55.4	57.8	55.2	55.4	55.2	58.1	58.4	57.6	60.2

*Overall Completers Beyond High School is the aggregate of those who have completed a trade certification, vocational training, associate degree, bachelor's degree, or graduate degree.



2019 Educational Attainment (%), among 25-64 Year-Old Respondents, Statewide Laborshed Survey



The 2019 Statewide Laborshed data is based upon a survey conducted across the state of residents 18 to 64 years old. The educational attainment data reported in this publication is for those between 25 and 64 years of age in order to allow time for higher education/training awards, degrees, and certifications to be earned. The percentages reported in the pie chart to the left are based upon answers given by 5,414 Iowa residents.

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