



WV GEAR UP Program Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025





Welcome and Program Updates

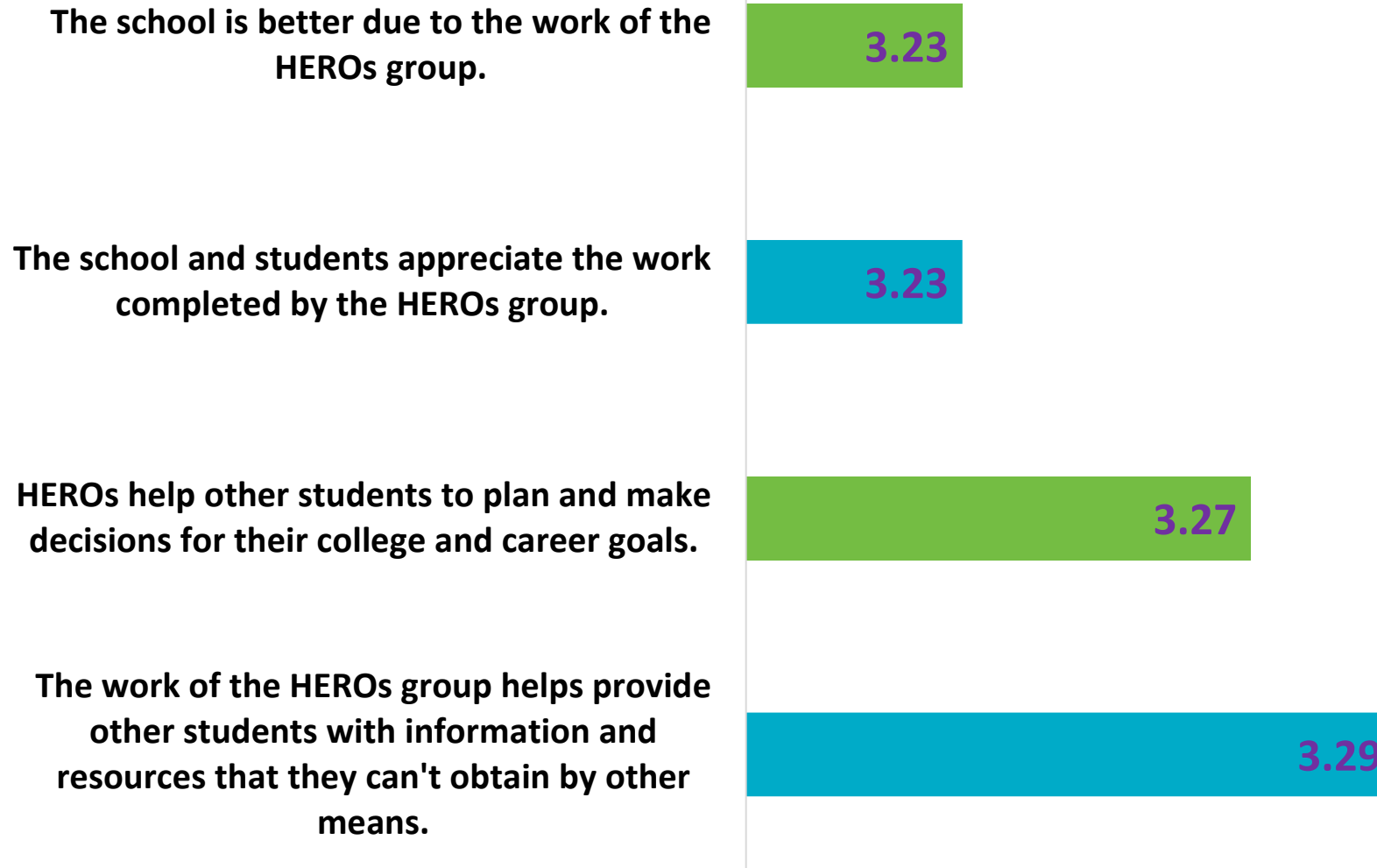
Jason Luyster, Senior Director of Student Services



Research & Evaluation Update

Lesli Taylor, Assistant Director of Research & Evaluation

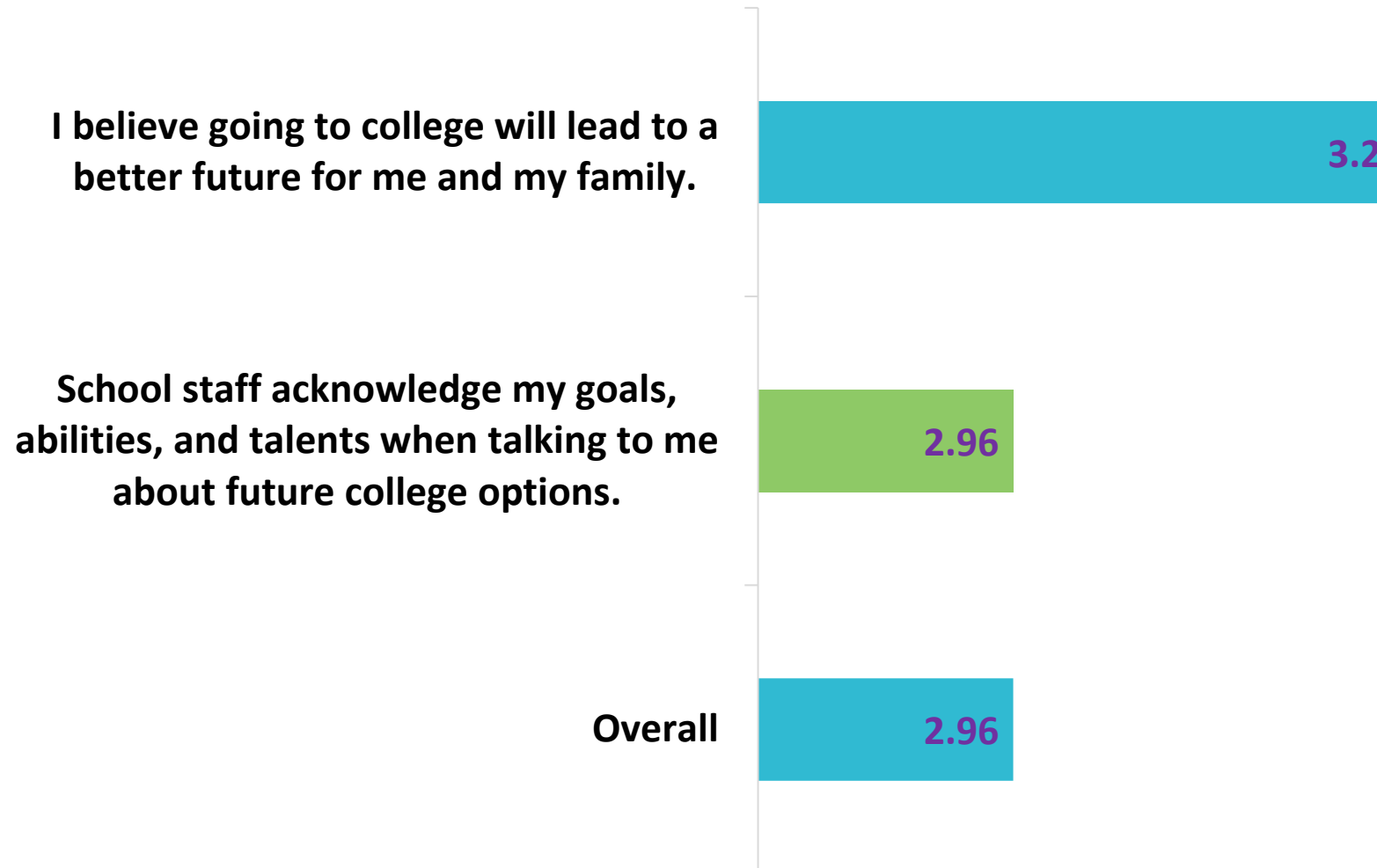
Data Wins & Highlights



**Higher
Number
=
More
Agreement**

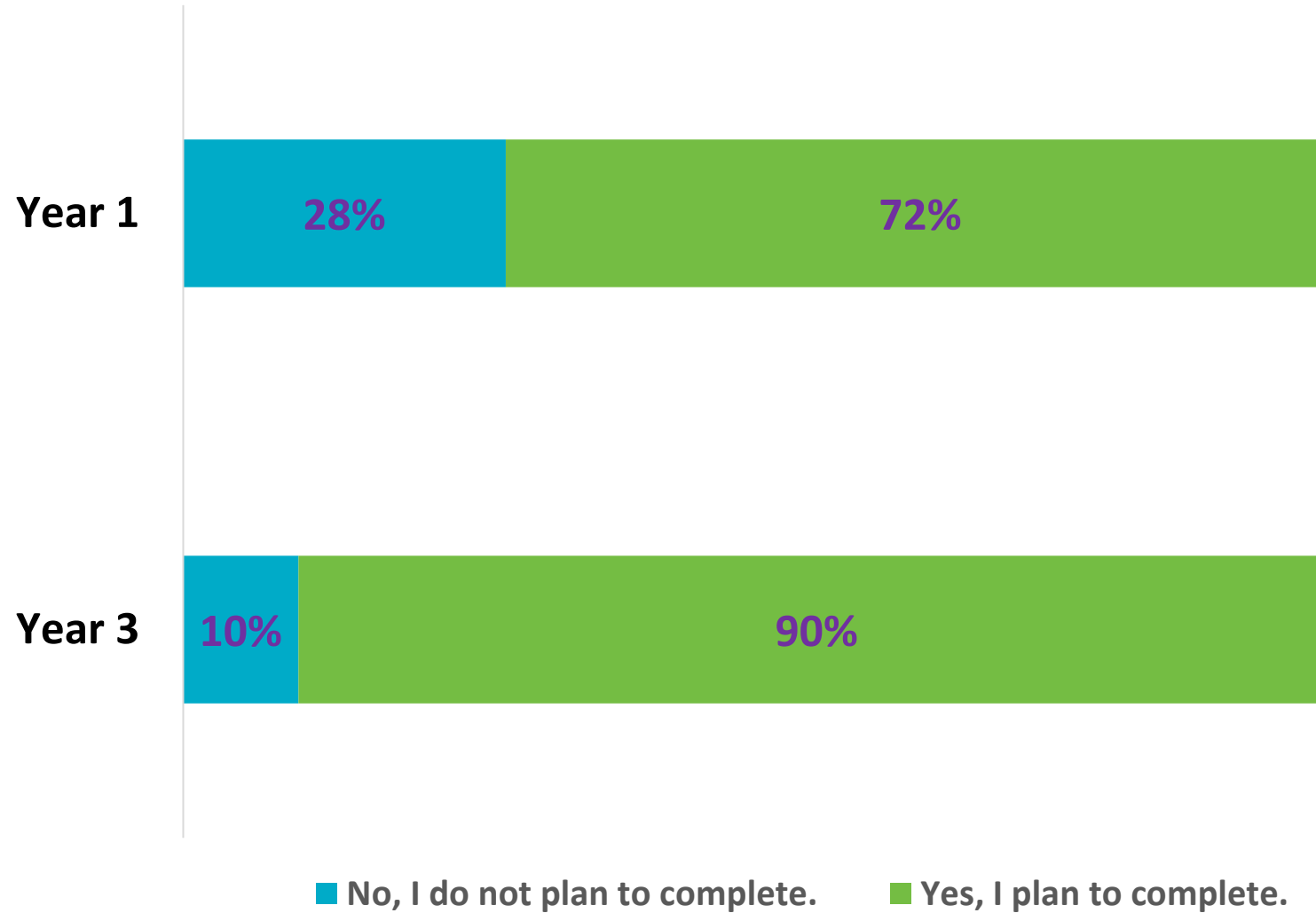
Data Wins & Highlights - HEROs

School College Going Culture – Grade 10

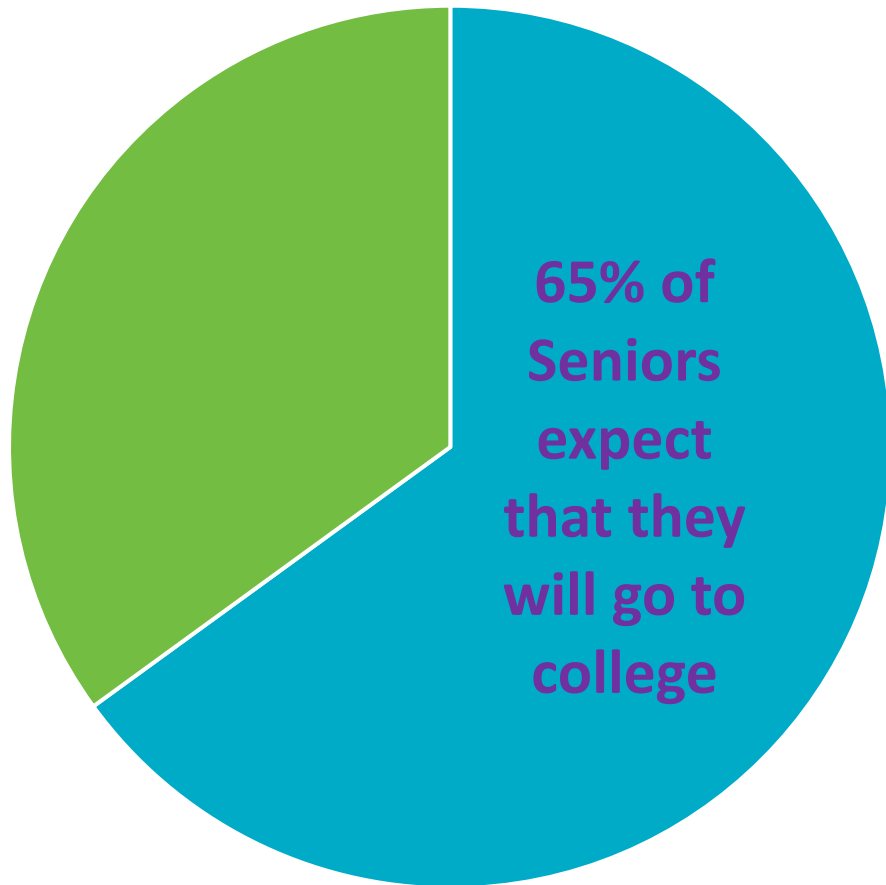


Data Wins & Highlights - Seniors

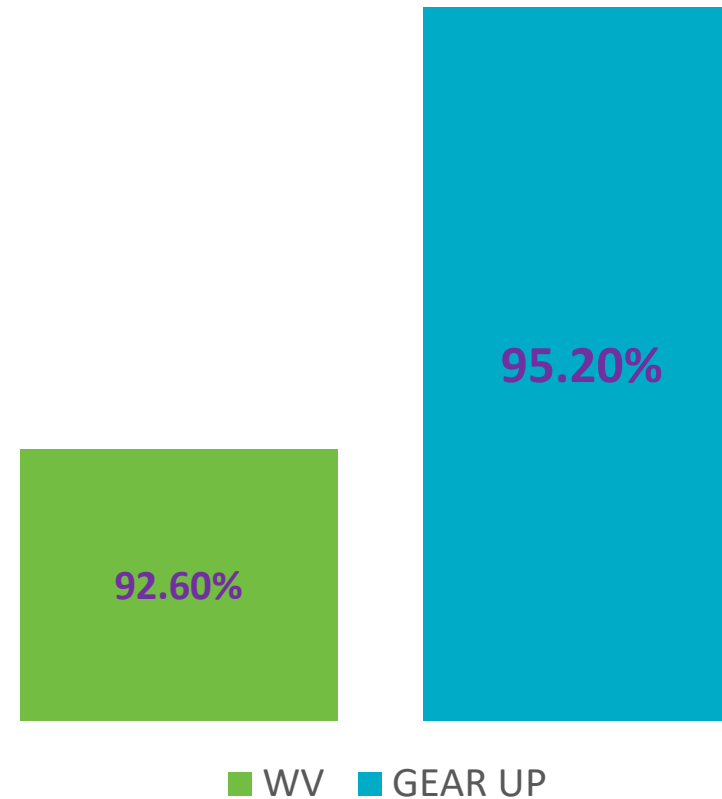
Do you plan to complete a FAFSA application?



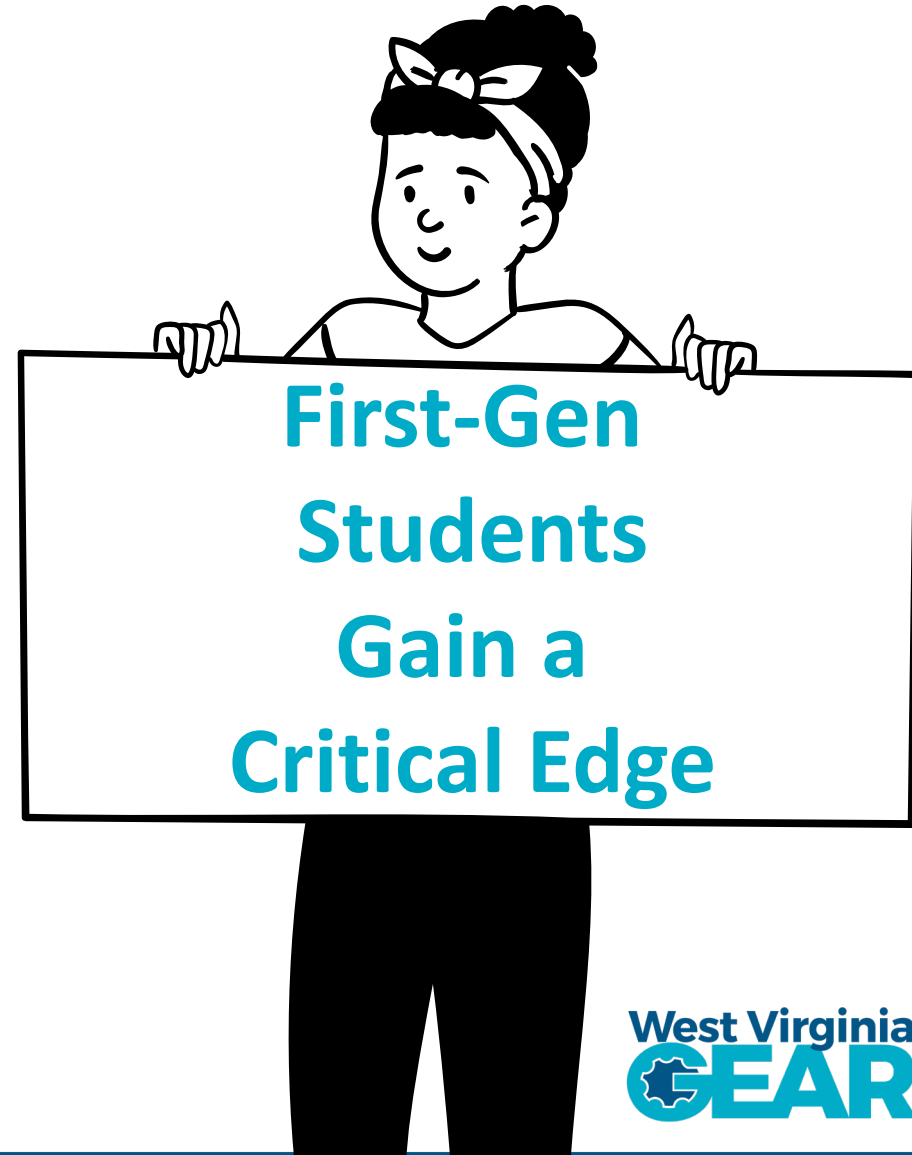
Data Wins & Highlights – Seniors cont.



2024 Graduation Rate



Data Wins & Highlights – Post Graduation



Student & Parent Surveys



GEAR UP Ambassadors

Jason Luyster, Senior Director of Student Services

2025-2026 WV GEAR UP Ambassadors

The WV GEAR UP Ambassador Program empowers current college students to share their lived experiences with future first-generation and rural learners.

Ambassadors support statewide college-readiness initiatives through:

- Storytelling & social media engagement
- Sharing authentic college experiences with GEAR UP students and families
- Providing personal experience with academics, financial aid, and campus life
- Serving as relatable role models and leaders

2025-2026 WV GEAR UP Ambassadors:

Audrey Dotson	Marshall University
Karissa Giles	Glenville State University
Cali Thompson	Southern WV CTC
Lincoln Thorn	Marshall University

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQUkpgqD1_d/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==



Upcoming Events: Student Voice Forum, Teacher Tech Training, and Holiday Hangout

Mallory Carpenter, Assistant Director of WV GEAR UP

Student Voice Forum: HEROs and SSS Students Only

Tuesday, November 18th

1. Chapmanville Regional High School....35
2. Clay County High School.....35
3. Hannan Jr/Sr High School.....35
4. Lincoln County High School.....35
5. Logan High School.....35
6. Man High School.....35
7. Point Pleasant Jr/Sr High School.....35
8. Tolsia High School.....30
9. Wahama Jr/Sr High School.....20
10. Webster County High School.....35
11. Wirt County High School.....30

Wednesday, November 19th

1. Mingo Central High School.....35
2. Nicholas County High School.....35
3. Richwood High School.....35
4. Roane County High School.....35
5. Scott High School.....30
6. Sherman High School.....35
7. Spring Valley High School.....35
8. Tug Valley High School.....35
9. Van Jr/Sr High School.....35
10. Wayne High School.....35

Student Voice Forum Schedule

Times	Location	Activity
9:00am-9:30am	Charleston Coliseum Ballroom	Arrival and Registration
9:30am-10:30am	Charleston Coliseum Ballroom	Keynote
10:40am-11:40am	Color-Coded Breakout Rooms (students sorted by color nametag), Chaperones will remain in ballroom for project briefing.	Facilitator-Led Student Breakout Sessions
11:50am-12:35pm	Charleston Coliseum Ballroom	Lunch and Closing Keynote

Checking In/Preparing for the Event

- You will need:
 - Extra roster of students in attendance
 - T-shirt sizes for students in attendance (Easiest way? Ask them on the bus and write it next to the roster.)
 - T-shirts will be sorted for you to pick up upon departure and pass out to students on the bus or back at school.
- To prep your students!
 - Explain to them this is a unique opportunity only for students in HEROs and Student Success Societies. They will be meeting with others GEAR UP students from around the state and working with them to start thinking about a student-led project in their schools.

Dec. 9th Teacher Technology Training

- Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center
- Mileage reimbursed and lunch provided
- 46 teachers currently registered
 - All schools except Logan High have at least one representative
- If your school didn't register for a package, they can still attend to get trained on old equipment!
- Need to edit your registrant? Let your Regional Director know.
- Final registration deadline: November 21st

School	# of Teachers
Chapmanville	1
Clay County	4
Hannan Jr/Sr	2
Lincoln	7
Logan	0
Man	2
Nicholas	2
Point Pleasant	1
Richwood	6
Roane	4
Scott	2
Sherman	2
Spring Valley	3
Tolsia	2
Tug Valley	1
Van Jr/Sr	1
Wayne	2
Webster	3

Attendee Details

- Bring a laptop or Chromebook
- Bring a student roster
- Have room in car to bring equipment home



Holiday Hangout and Project Shareout

- December 17th, 10:00-10:30am
- Link to be provided
- HEROs AND SSS students in attendance from SVF; HEROs Social Media Director needs to attend
- Food allowable
- Designed for students to provide project updates from their school—they will need to have decided on their project by this point





GEAR UP U!



Chelsea Stickelman, College Access and Success Program Director

General Info



June 23 – 27, 2026
(we are extending it an extra day!)



Glenville State University



Rising 11th and 12th
graders



FREE



GLENVILLE
STATE UNIVERSITY

Glenville State University

Campus Dining



Goodwin Hall



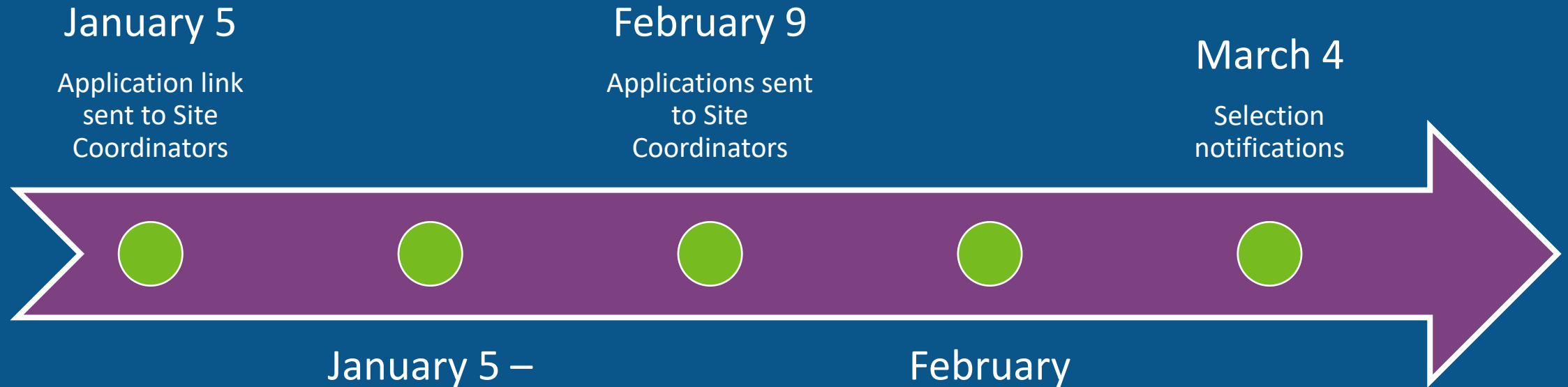
Highlighted Events/Courses

- Trip to Columbus Zoo & Cosi in Columbus, Ohio
- Etiquette Dinner
- Classes with GSU faculty to learn more about the careers associated with major
 - Education panel with professionals from all aspects of the education world.
 - Political Science and History- What do we do with that?
 - Business- Applies to any and every job market.
- CoolSpeak will provide our leadership component

Application, Review, Selection Processes

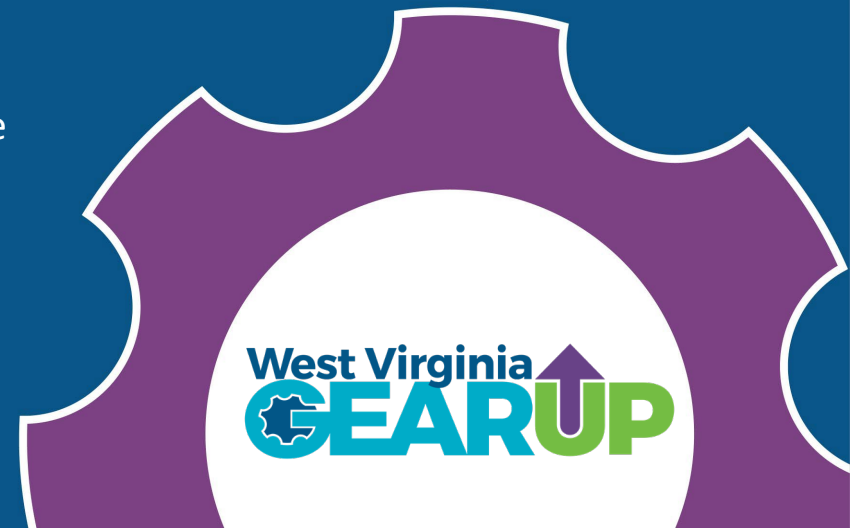
1. Interested students will need to complete the online application
 - Application link will be sent to all Site Coordinators to distribute
 - No parental signatures/waivers required at this point
 - Keep in mind you will be reviewing all applications – so may want to be selective on with whom you share the link
2. Site Coordinators review applicants with a provided GUU document.
 - Considers participation in GU, college/career goals, leadership potential
 - Review documents will be uploaded all together via GoAnywhere

Timeline



January 5 –
February 6
Application open

February
16
Score sheets due
back to Chelsea



Important Information

- Site Coordinators will be asked to host a registration event to help students and families complete registration, answer questions, etc.
- We will again be recruiting a few school-level staff to work as Camp Supervisors – if you are interested application will open in the spring, you can email Chelsea to indicate your interest!



GEAR UP Communication Updates

Emily Hammond, Assistant Director of Communications and Outreach



COLLEGE APPLICATION & EXPLORATION WEEK



Richwood High School

Tug Valley High School



Clay County High School





Spring Valley High School

Roane County High School



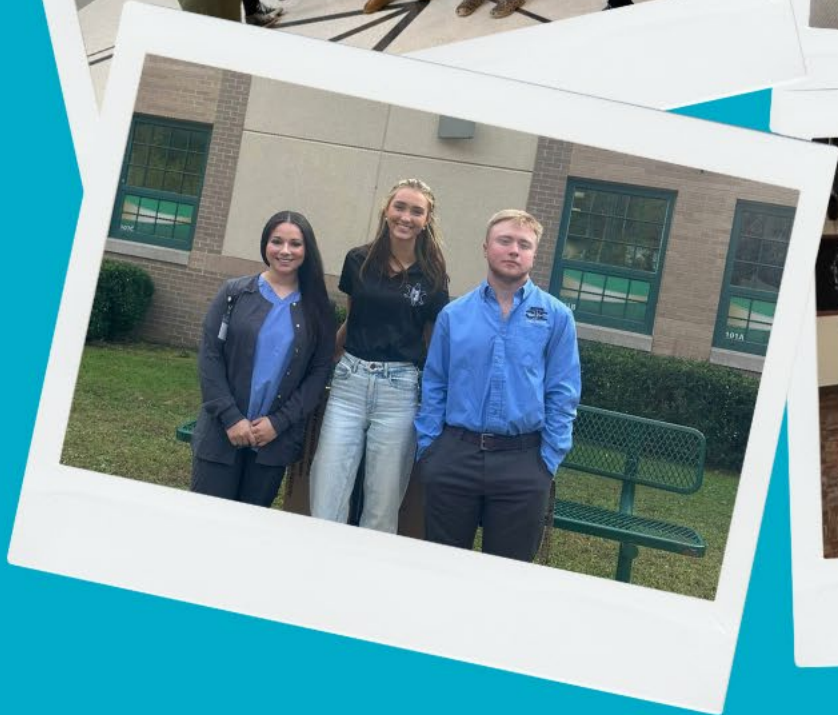
Lincoln County High School





Nicholas County High School

Mingo Central High School





SAT Bootcamp Registration

Mackenzie Brunson, College Access and Success Program Director

SAT Bootcamp Registration | Scan to Register

Southwestern Region

February 17 – 26, 2026



Lincoln, Mason, Wayne

Central Region

March 2 – 12, 2026



Clay, Nicholas, Roane,
Webster, Wirt

Southern Region

March 16 – 26, 2026



Boone, Logan, Mingo



Fiscal Update

Joanne Rutherford, Coordinator of Fiscal and Administrative Services

Lunch



Regional Breakouts



“college” Discussion

Heather McChesney, Director of Statewide Access Initiatives and Jason Luyster, Senior Director of Student Affairs



Communicating the Value of a Postsecondary Credential

November 2025

Dr. Jennifer Grossman, Director of Research & Analysis



Background

Students and parents question the value of college



Pew Research Center

The New York Times

REPORT | MAY 23, 2024

SHARE

Is College Worth It?

As economic outcomes for young adults with and without degrees have improved, Americans hold mixed views on the value of college



TOWN&COUNTRY

LUXURY STYLE

TRAVEL

LEISURE

SOCIETY

[Society](#) > [Money & Power](#)

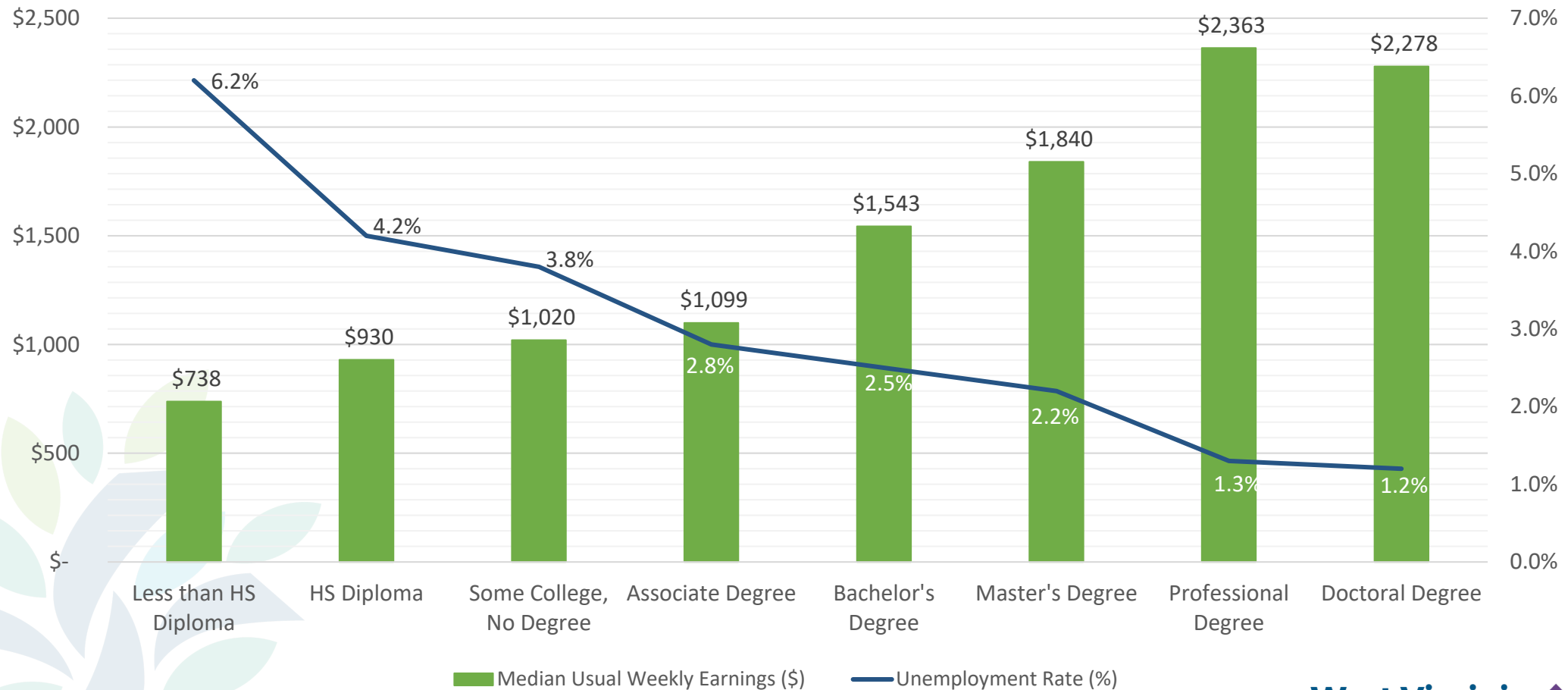
The New College Math: Calculating ROI

Math is hard. Especially when you're a parent of a high school senior looking down the barrel of a six-figure college tuition. Is it any wonder the new favorite phrase in higher ed is Return on Investment?

For Some Young People, a College Degree Is Not Worth the Debt

Because of high costs, some high school graduates have opted to delay, drop out of or forgo attending college altogether to avoid student debt that could hang over them for decades.

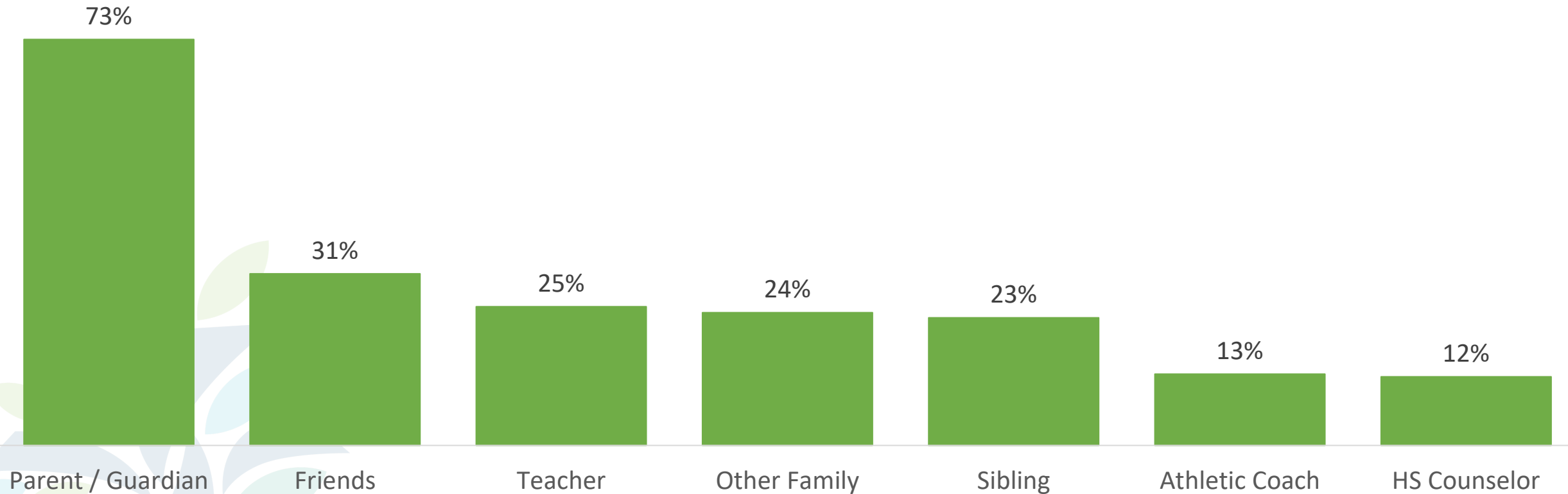
However, research shows higher levels of educational attainment increase earnings and employability¹



¹<https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/unemployment-earnings-education.htm>

College-bound students most often cite family and friends as influences on their postsecondary decisions, stressing the importance of both groups' knowledge²

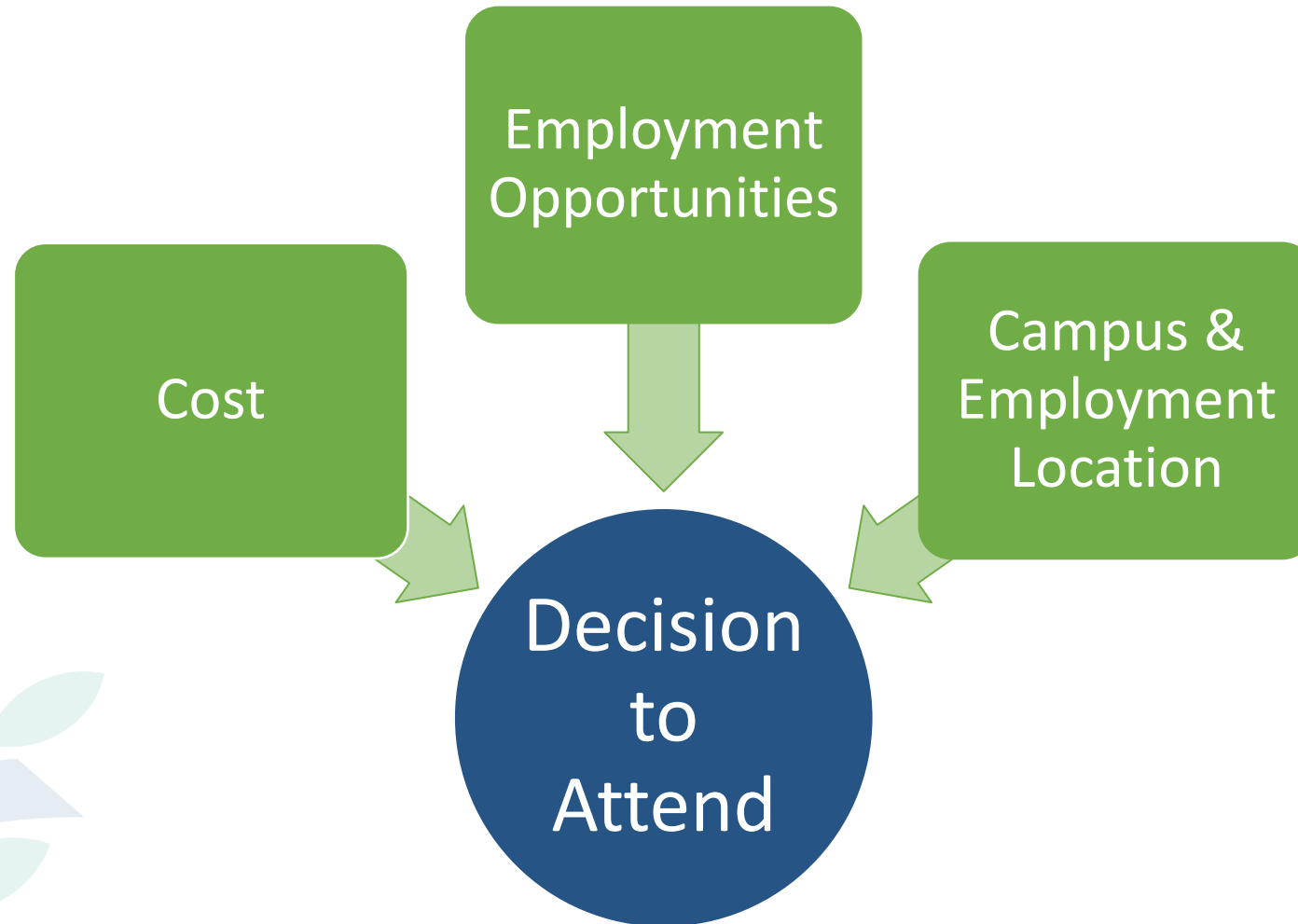
College-Bound Students' Influences

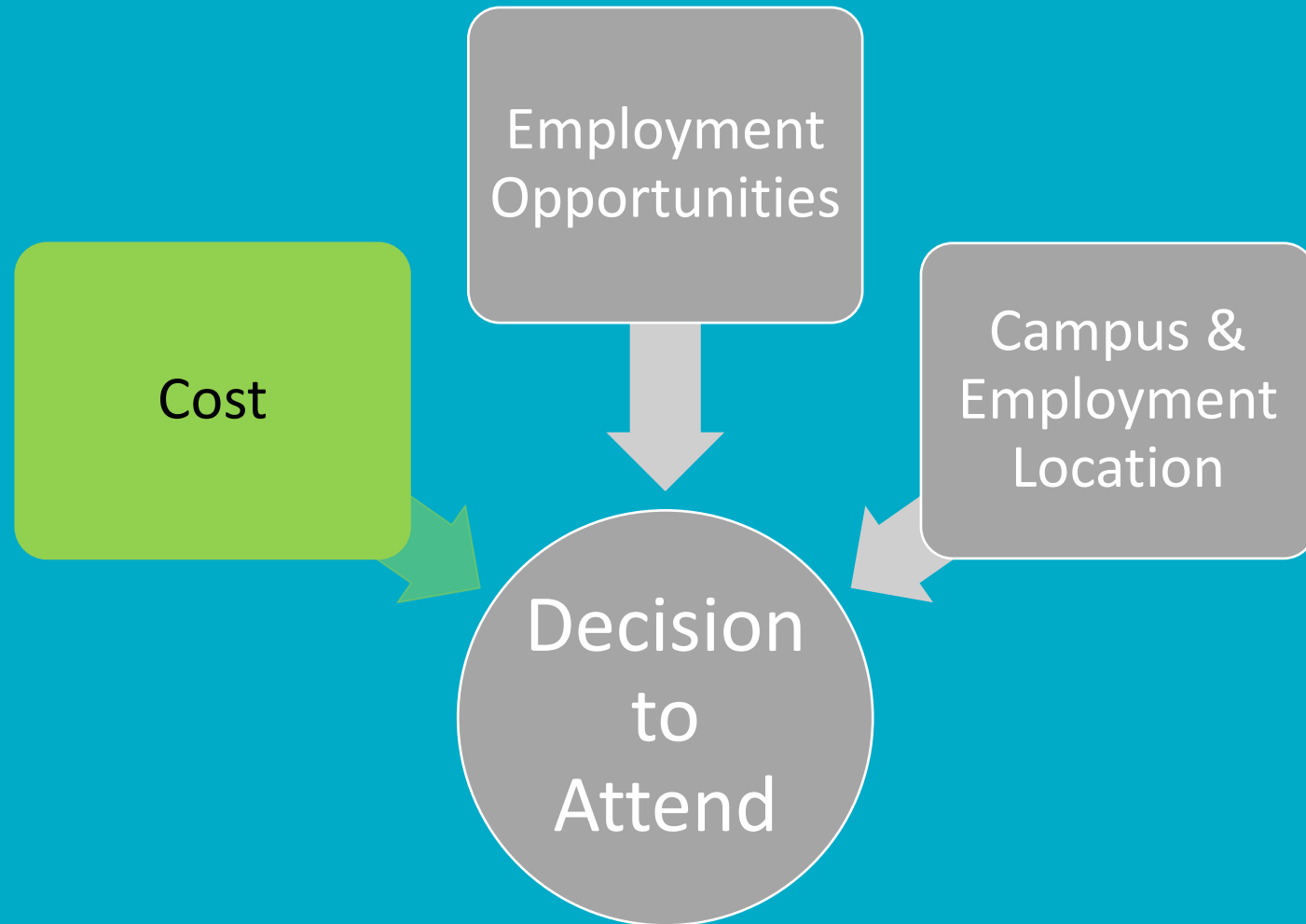


²2024-2025 High School Student Opinion Survey

Communicating the Value of a Postsecondary Credential

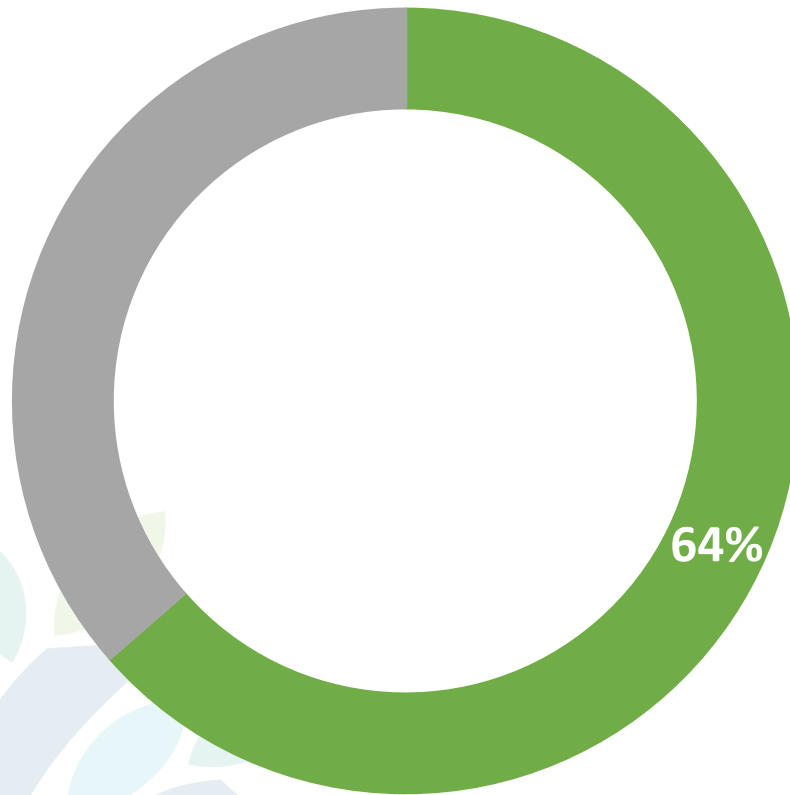
Students and families weigh many factors when deciding where, or if, students should attend college





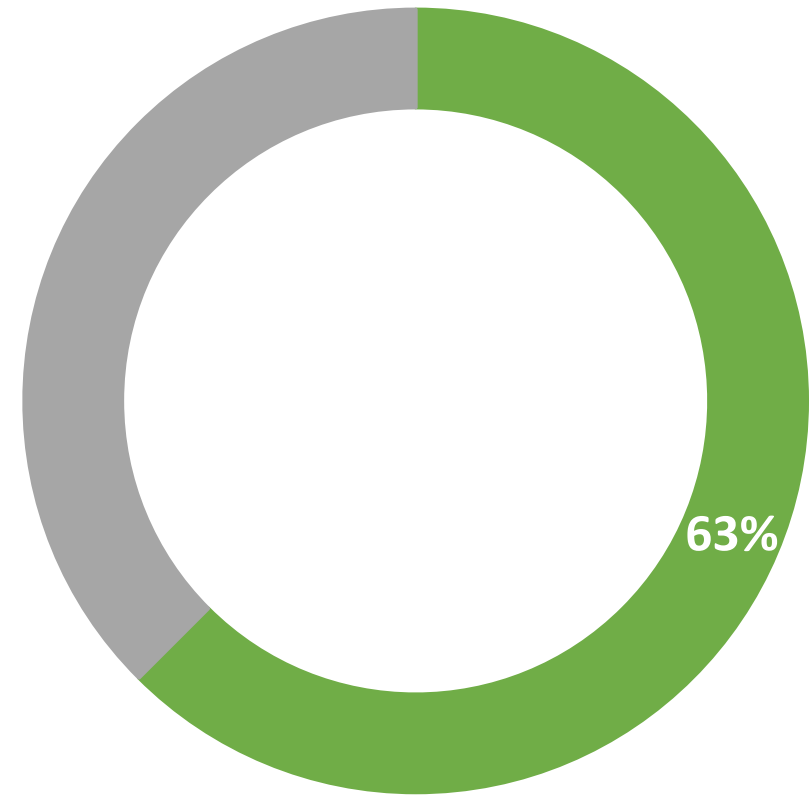
Cost is a factor for both college-bound students and their non-college-bound peers²

College-Bound Students



- Cited Affordability as Factor When Deciding to Attend College
- Didn't Cite Affordability as Factor When Deciding to Attend College

Non-College-Bound Students



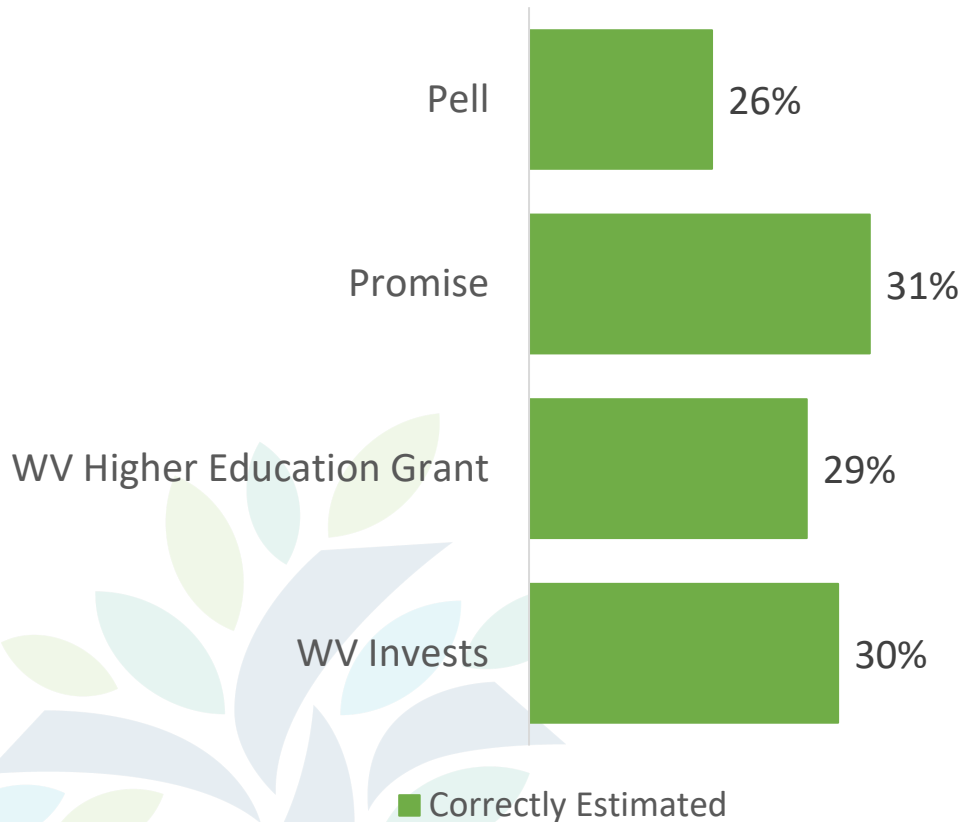
- Cited Affordability as Factor When Deciding Not to Attend College
- Didn't Cite Affordability as Factor When Deciding Not to Attend College

²2024-2025 High School Student Opinion Survey

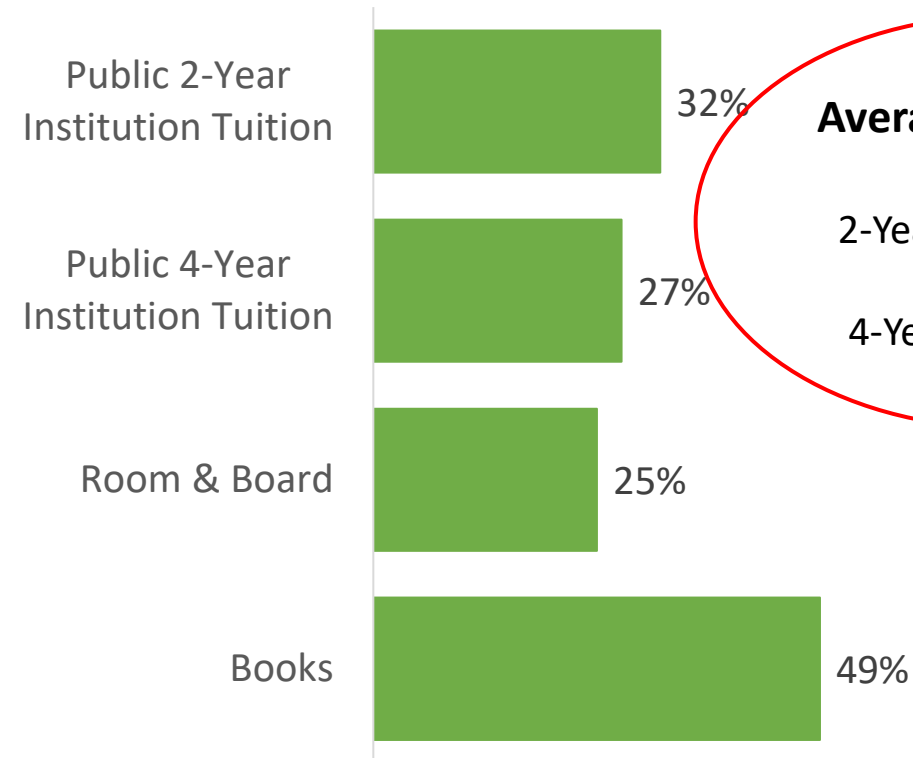
Communicating the Value of a Postsecondary Credential

However, most students do not accurately estimate financial aid award amounts nor the cost to attend²

Accuracy in Maximum Financial Aid Award Estimates



Accuracy in Cost Estimates



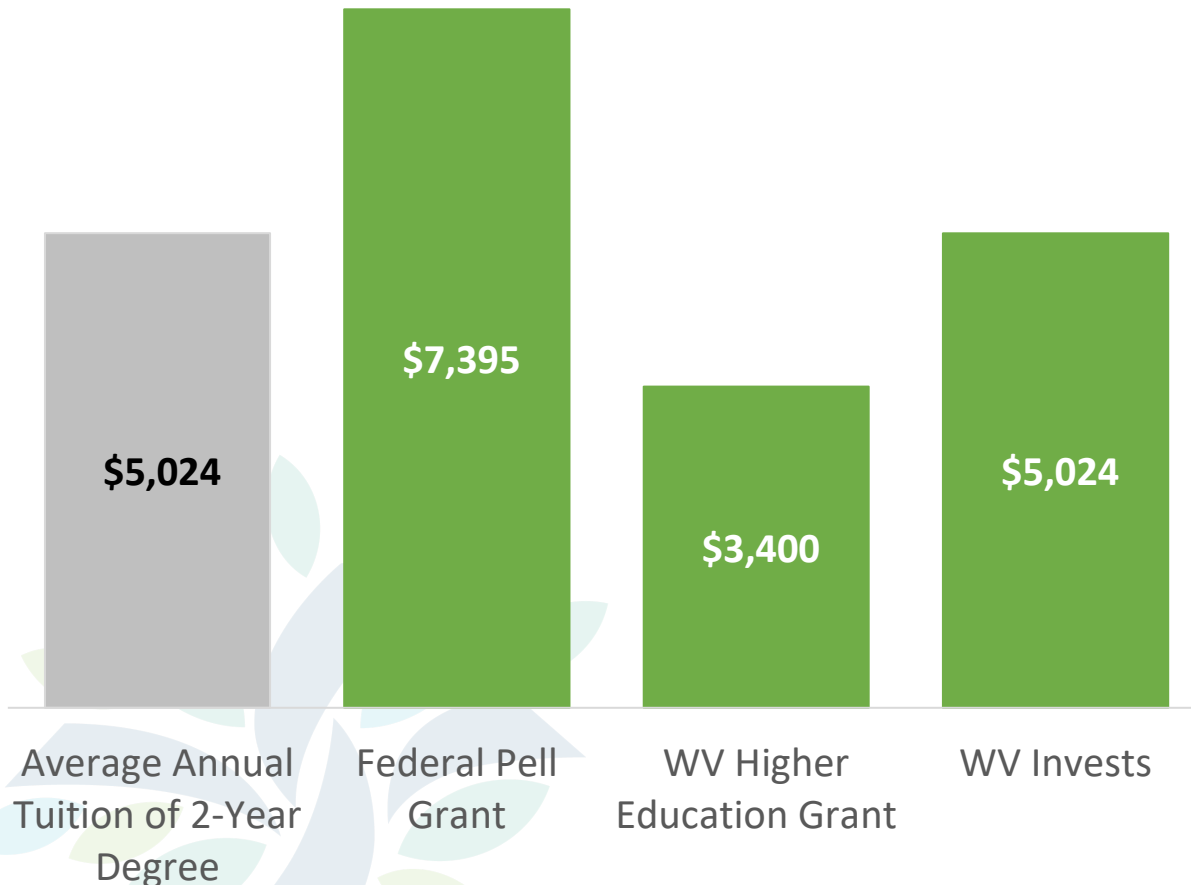
Average 2025-2026 Tuition

2-Year (Associate) = \$5,024/yr
4-Year = \$9,294/yr

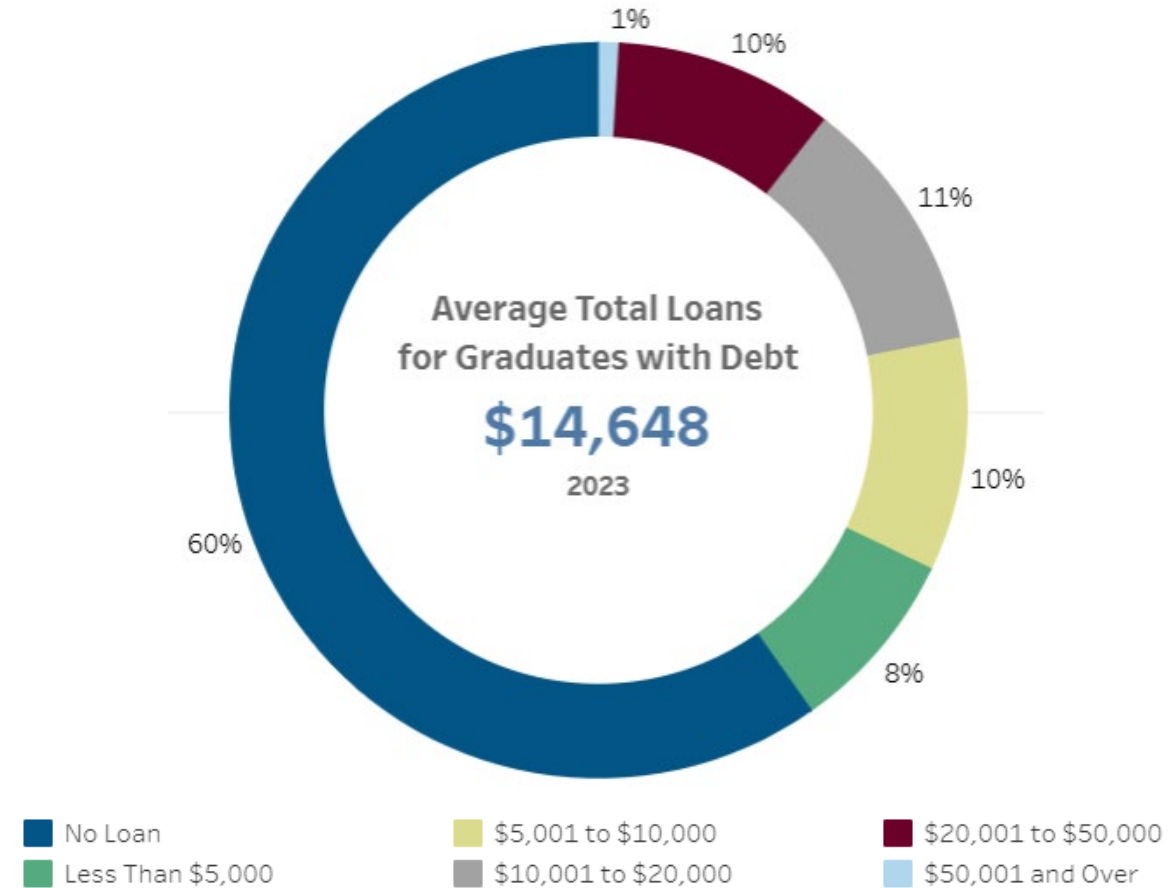
²2024-2025 High School Student Opinion Survey

Combining federal and state aid can cover much, if not all, tuition for a 2-year degree, leaving most students debt-free³, particularly after Invests was implemented

Maximum Financial Aid Award Amounts



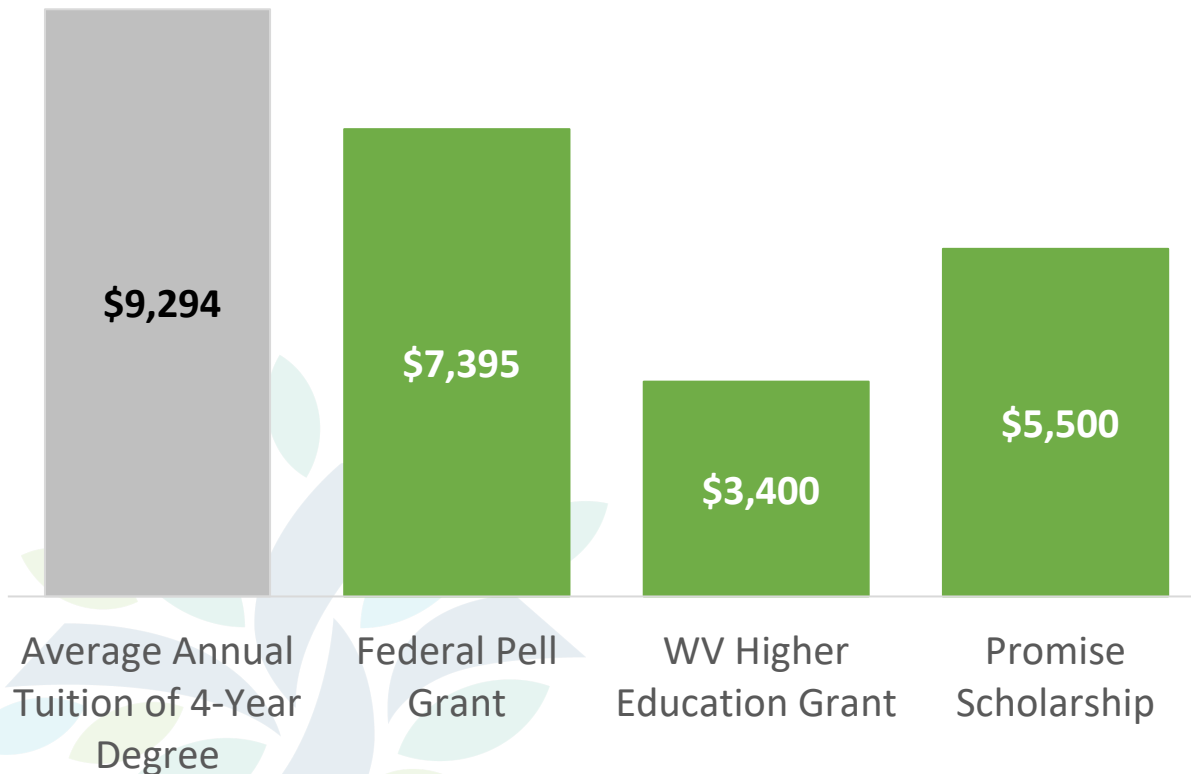
Debt Levels for Associate Degree Recipients³



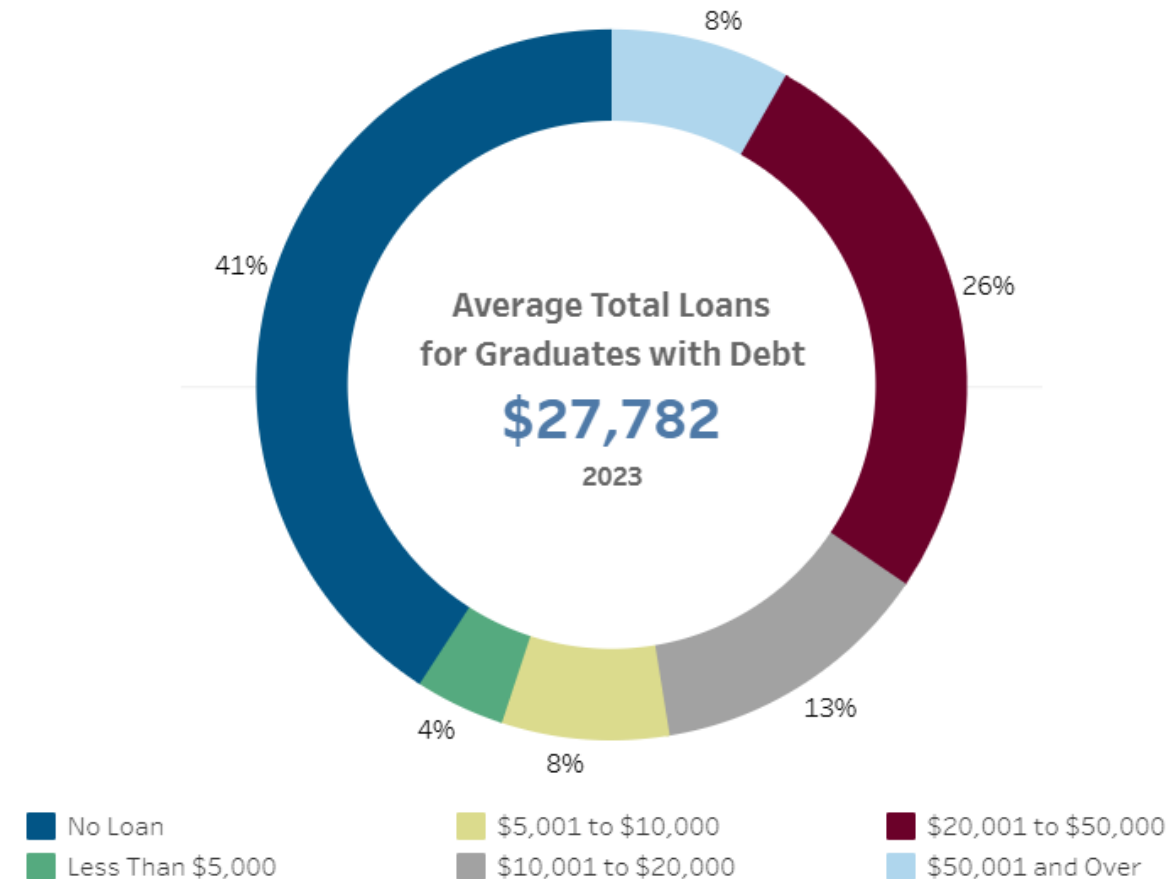
³[https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/affordability/Communicating the Value of a Postsecondary Credential](https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/affordability/Communicating%20the%20Value%20of%20a%20Postsecondary%20Credential)

Those pursuing Bachelor's degrees also have multiple aid program available to them, with 40% graduating debt-free³

Maximum Financial Aid Award Amounts



Debt Levels for Bachelor's Degree Recipients³



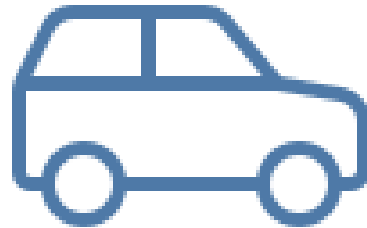
³[https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/affordability/Communicating the Value of a Postsecondary Credential](https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/affordability/Communicating%20the%20Value%20of%20a%20Postsecondary%20Credential)

Communicating the cost

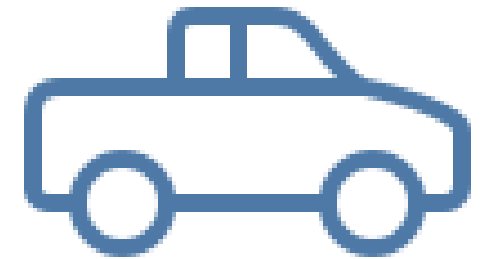
Average Cost of Used Vehicle as of July 2025⁴



Used Car - \$20,460



Used SUV - \$28,299



Used Truck - \$36,684

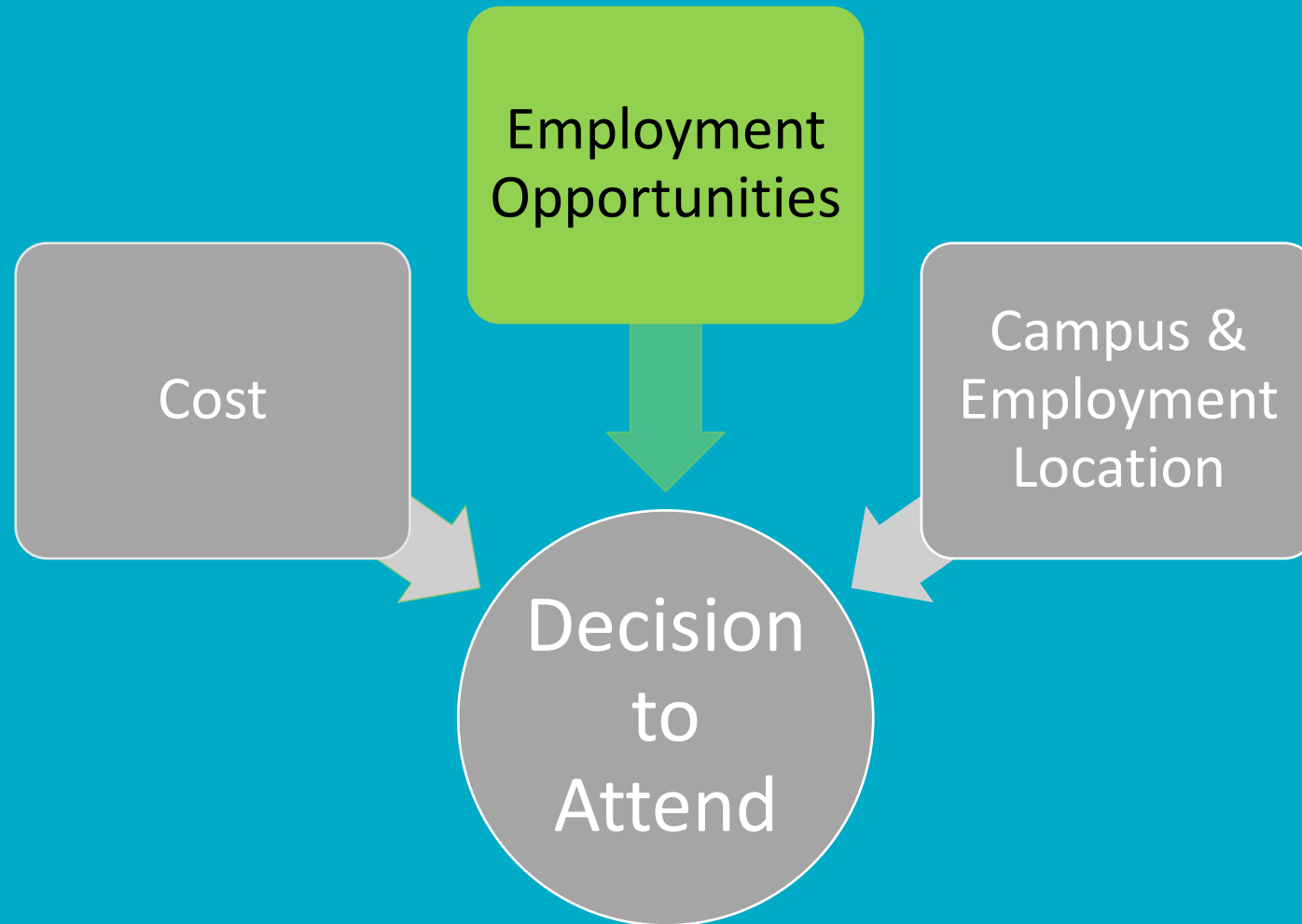
⁴<https://www.cargurus.com/research/price-trends>; as of 7/13/25

The LevelUp dual enrollment initiative may reduce postsecondary costs for students across many study areas

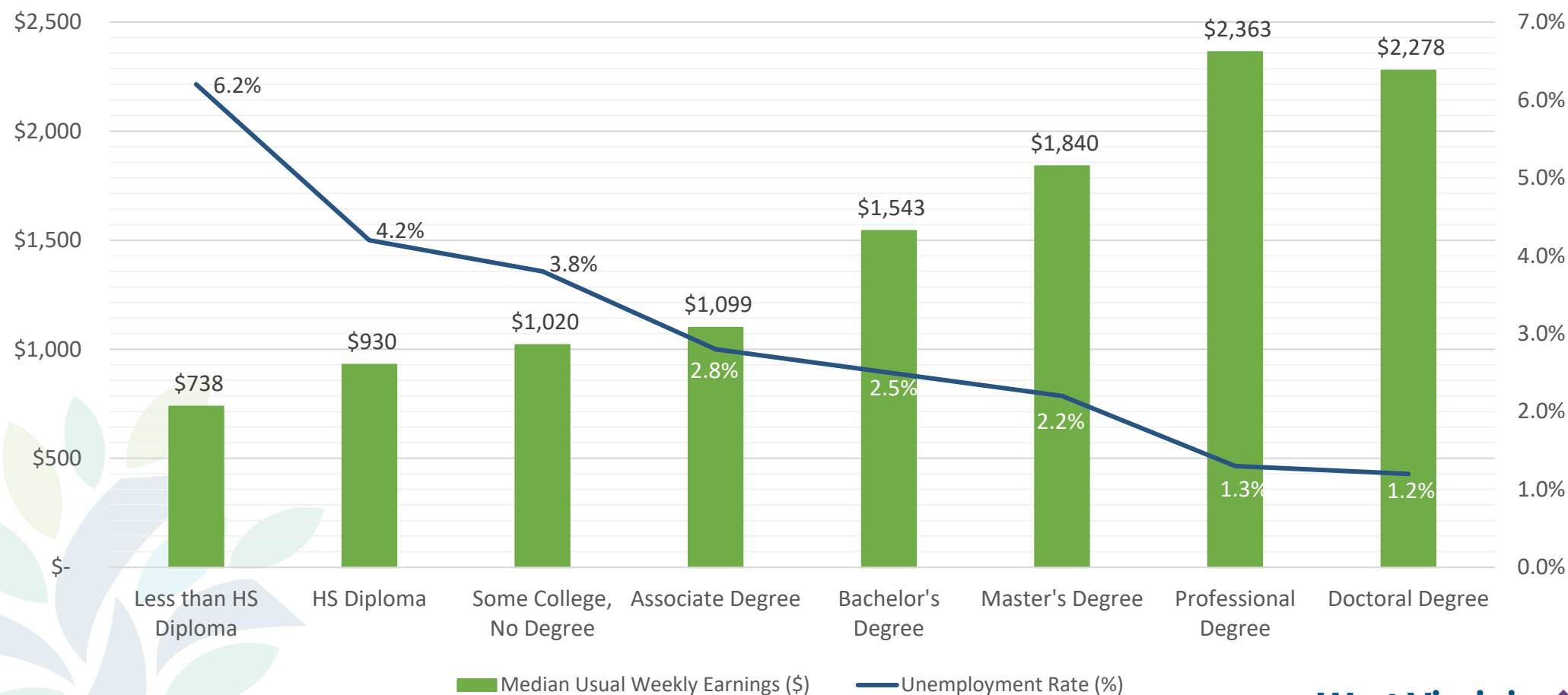
Pathway	Pathway CIP	Pathway Name	HS Name	Blue Ridge CTC	Bluefield State University	BridgeValley CTC	Eastern West Virginia CTC	Glenville State University	Mountwest CTC	New River CTC	Pierpont CTC	Shepherd University	West Liberty University	West Virginia Northern CTC	West Virginia State University	WVU at Parkersburg
Advanced Manufacturing	150499	Advanced Manufacturing	Nitro High School			✓										
			Win Academy			✓										
	150613	Advanced Manufacturing	Spring Valley Hs						✓							
Business	520101	Business	Tolsia High School						✓							
			Wayne County High School						✓							
			Brooke High School											✓		
	520201	Business	Cameron High School											✓		
			John Marshall High School											✓		
Criminal Justice	430104	Criminal Justice	Clay County High School			✓										
			East Hardy County High School				✓									
			Moorefield High School				✓									
			Bluefield High School							✓						
			James Monroe High School						✓							
			Montcalm High School						✓							

Takeaways on Communicating Cost

- Many, if not most, WV students who attend an in-state public institution graduate debt-free.
- If graduates do incur debt, the average amount they will accumulate is less than the cost of a used vehicle.
- Opportunities exist for students to lower the cost of continuing their education.
 - Students who participate in the LevelUp program have access to free college-level courses while in high school that can help them gain credits toward a degree in their field.
 - They also have access to many financial aid programs, both federally funded and through the state, that can assist with costs and that do not have to be paid back. These include:
 - Need-based programs like the federal Pell grant and the WV Higher Education Grant
 - The merit-based Promise Scholarship
 - The last-dollar in WV Invests program



Nationally, increased education results in both higher wages and in lower unemployment levels



¹<https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/unemployment-earnings-education.htm>

Communicating the Value of a Postsecondary Credential

This is also seen with those working in-state, where increased education leads to higher wages, both in the near- and long-term⁵

Last updated: April 2025

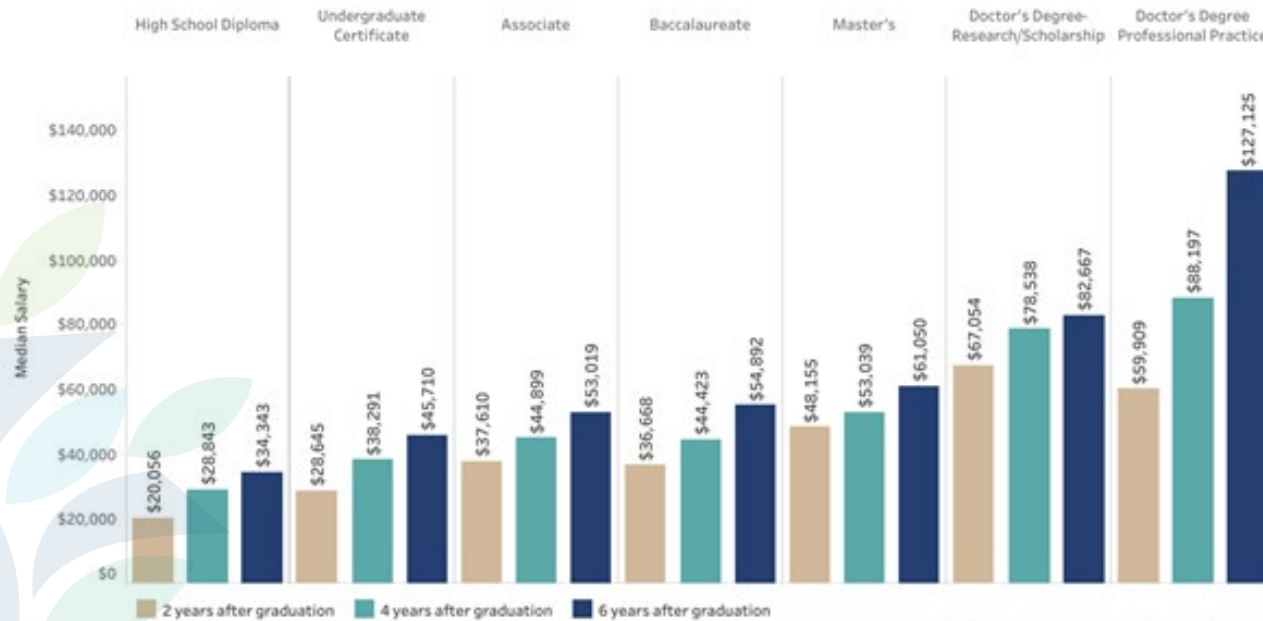
Workforce Outcomes for Public High School and Postsecondary Graduates

The data presented on this dashboard were derived from the The West Virginia P-20 Statewide Longitudinal Data System (P-20 SLDS)*. This dashboard is designed to provide public access to key data elements that provide insight into the employment outcomes of the state's public high school and postsecondary graduates.

Graduation Year
2018-2019

State/Institutional
Statewide

Annual median wages for 2018-2019 Statewide graduates by the highest degree earned in West Virginia.



COHORT DEFINITION

This cohort includes West Virginia public high school and postsecondary graduates from the academic year 2018-2019 who earned wages in all 4 quarters during the year in West Virginia.

WAGE DATA

- Wage data include graduates who: a) were employed in West Virginia; and b) worked all 4 quarters during the year;
- Wage data do NOT include graduates who: a) were employed outside of West Virginia; b) were self employed; c) worked less than a full year; d) worked for the federal government;

Small cell sizes have been suppressed to protect the privacy of the individuals represented.

Doctor's Degree Professional Practice - Median wages for the first two years in health related fields may reflect income while students were enrolled in residency programs.

⁵<https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/workforce-data/>

The amount of debt accumulated from completing an associate degree is half of a year's higher earnings⁶



⁶Based on the class of 2021-2022 median in-state salary 2 years after graduation

The debt accumulated from completing a bachelor's degree is 1.3 times a year's higher earnings⁷

Difference of \$20,912; debt total of \$27,782

\$29,451



HS Diploma

\$50,363



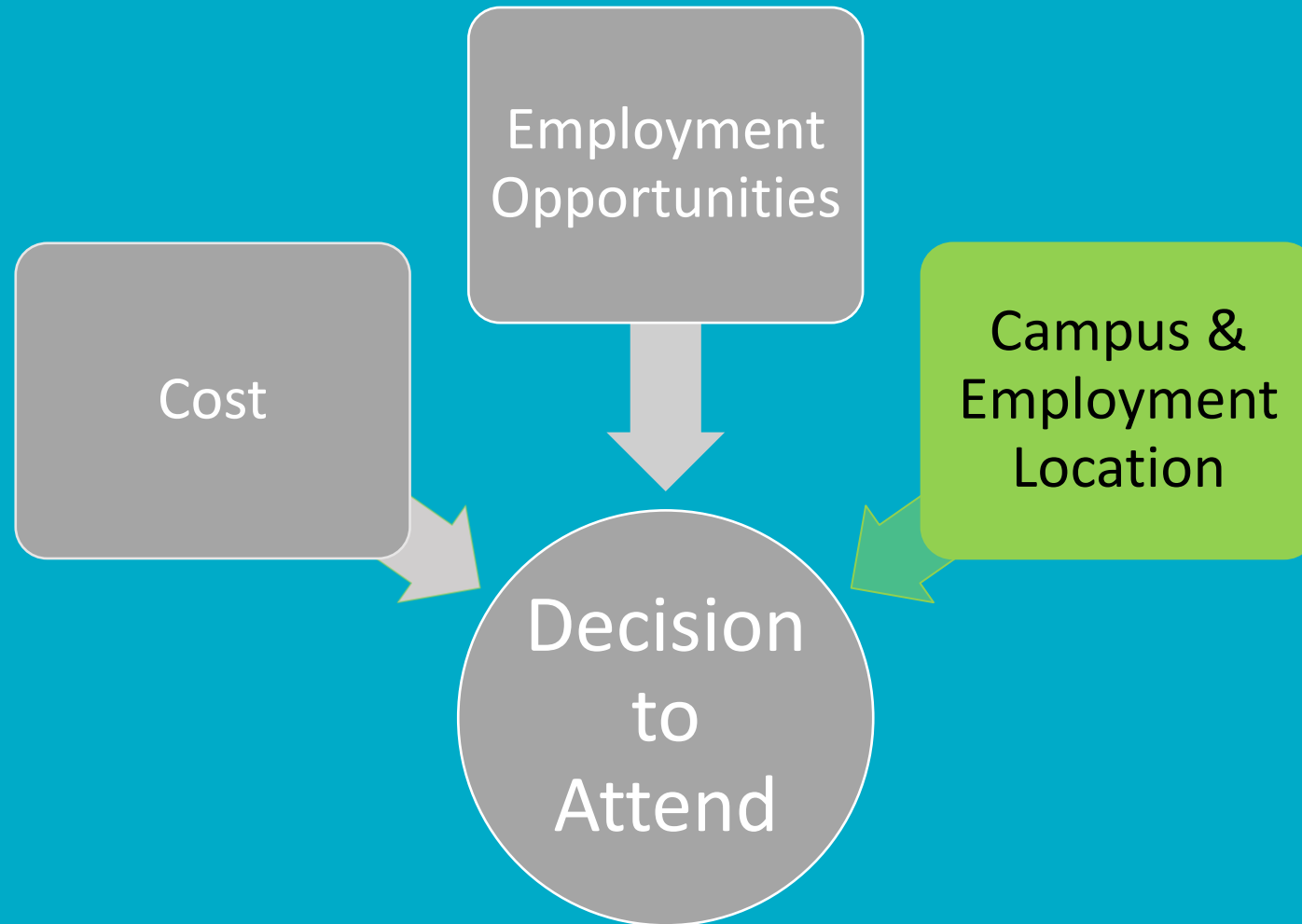
Bachelors Degree

■ HS Diploma ■ Bachelors Degree

⁷Based on the class of 2020-2021 median in-state salary 4 years after graduation

Takeaways on Communicating Increased Earnings

- Wages increase as level of education increases, both nationally and for those who specifically work within WV.
- In addition to increased earnings, those with higher levels of education suffer from lower levels of unemployment.
- The increased earning power from obtaining a postsecondary degree makes up for any student debt graduates may have within one to two years.

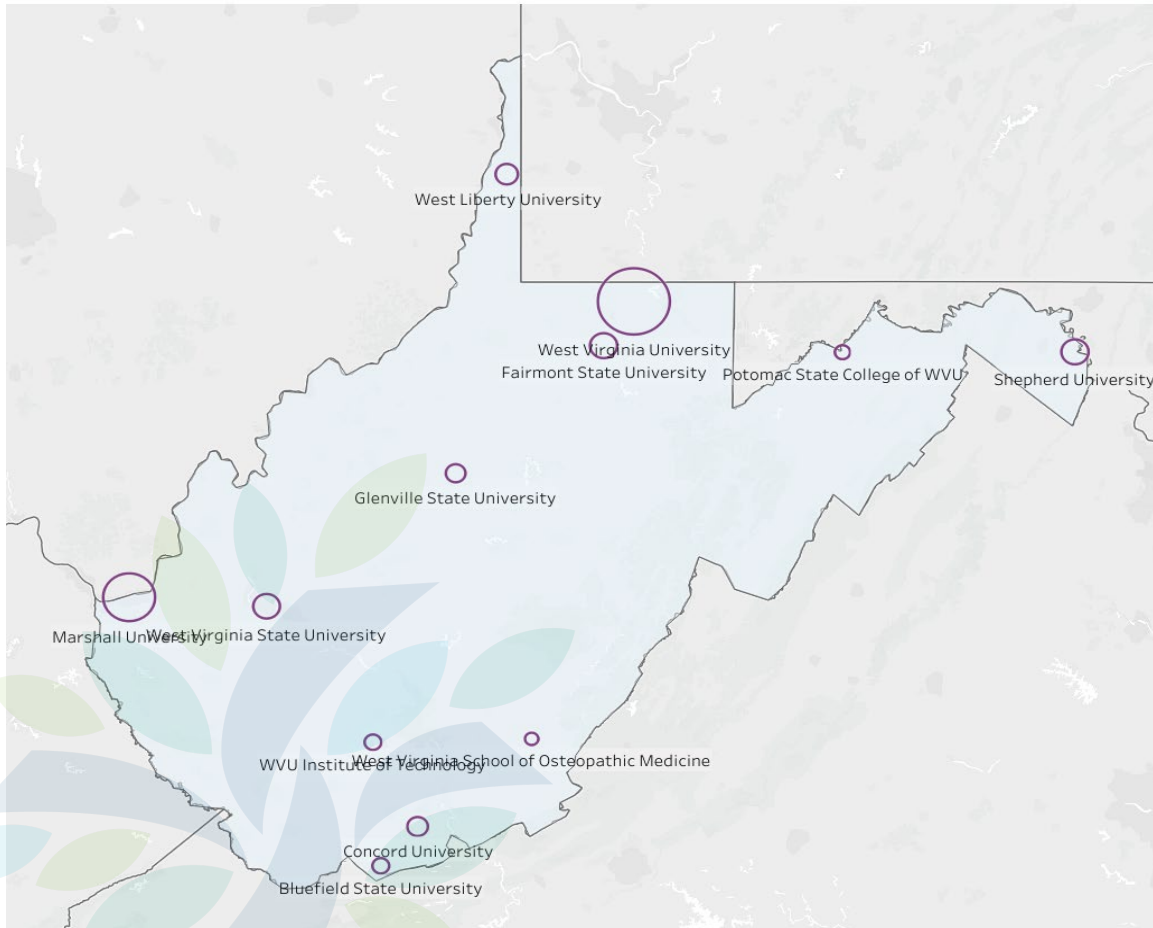


Students can access multiple 4- and 2-year campuses across the state⁸ or take online courses they offer

2024 Fall Headcount Enrollment for WV Public Four-Year Institutions (HEPC)

Filters Applied: Sector: WV Public Four-Year Institutions (HEPC); Residency Status: All;

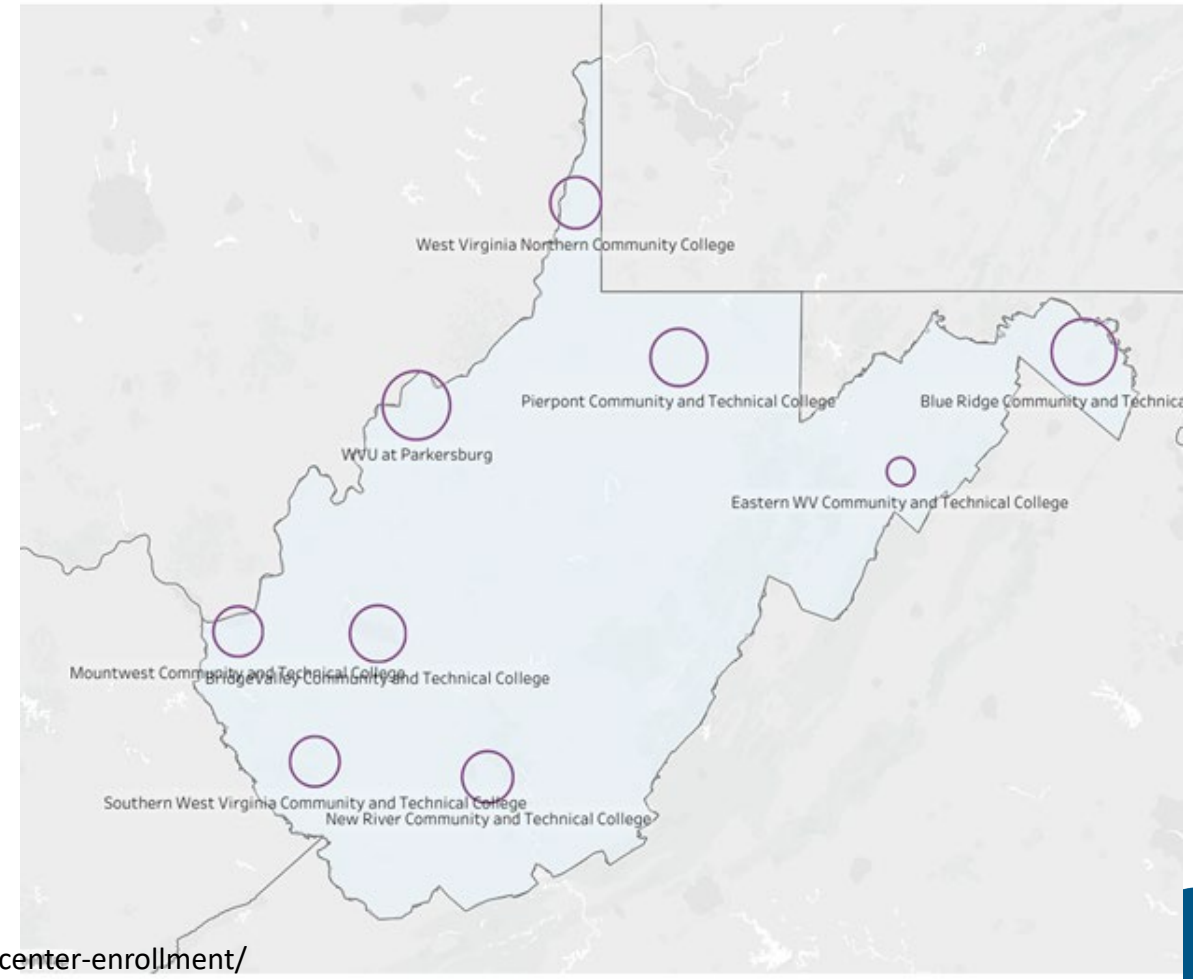
Hover over an institution for enrollment data.



2024 Fall Headcount Enrollment for WV Public Two-Year Institutions (CTCS)

Filters Applied: Sector: WV Public Two-Year Institutions (CTCS); Residency Status: All;

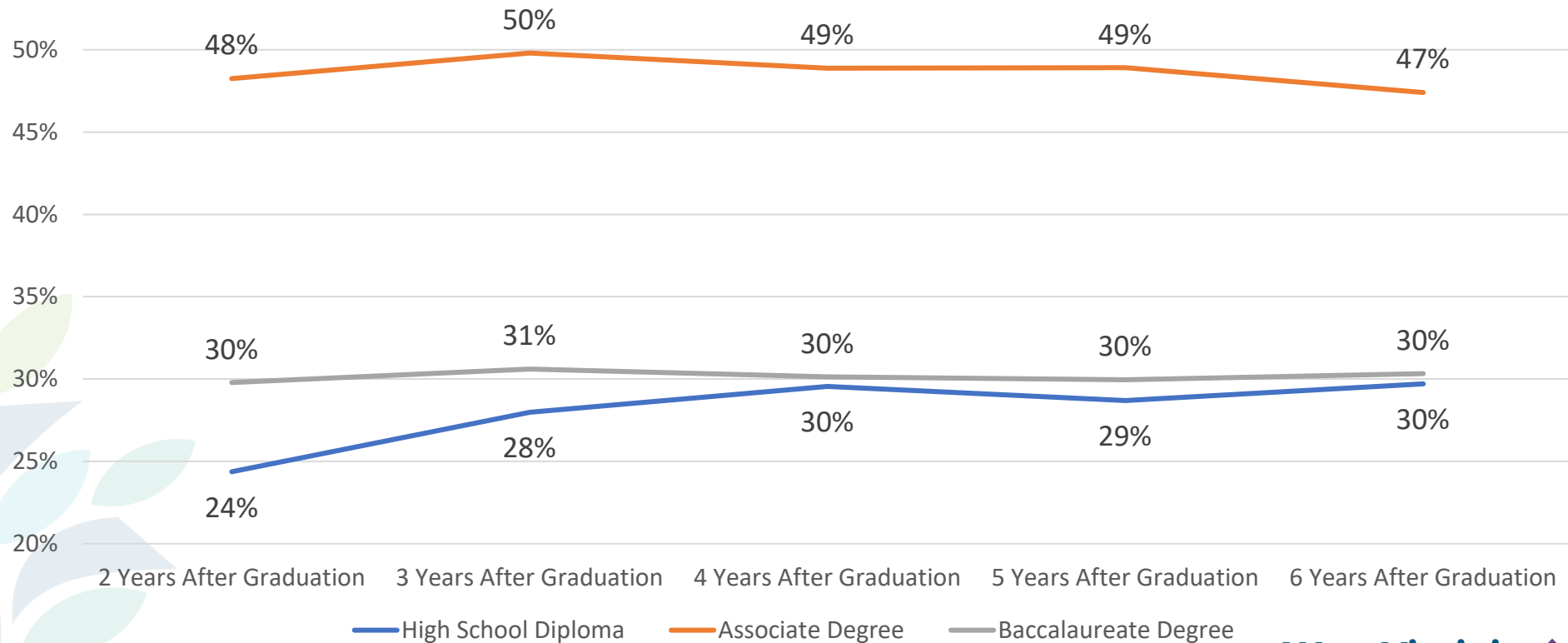
Hover over an institution for enrollment data.



⁸<https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/data-center-enrollment/>

Although families often worry their students will move away, those who only have high school diplomas are less likely to work in-state³

Percent of 2018 -2019 Graduates Working in WV by Highest Education Level



³<https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/workforce-data/>

More than 2/3 of those who graduated with an associate degree from one of our in-state public institutions work in WV one year after graduation⁹



Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer

[What is PSEO?](#) [Download Data](#) [Email Us](#) [Tutorial](#) [Help](#)

Data Type
☒ Earnings ☐ Flows

State
West Virginia ▾

Institution
All Partner Institutions in West Virginia ▾

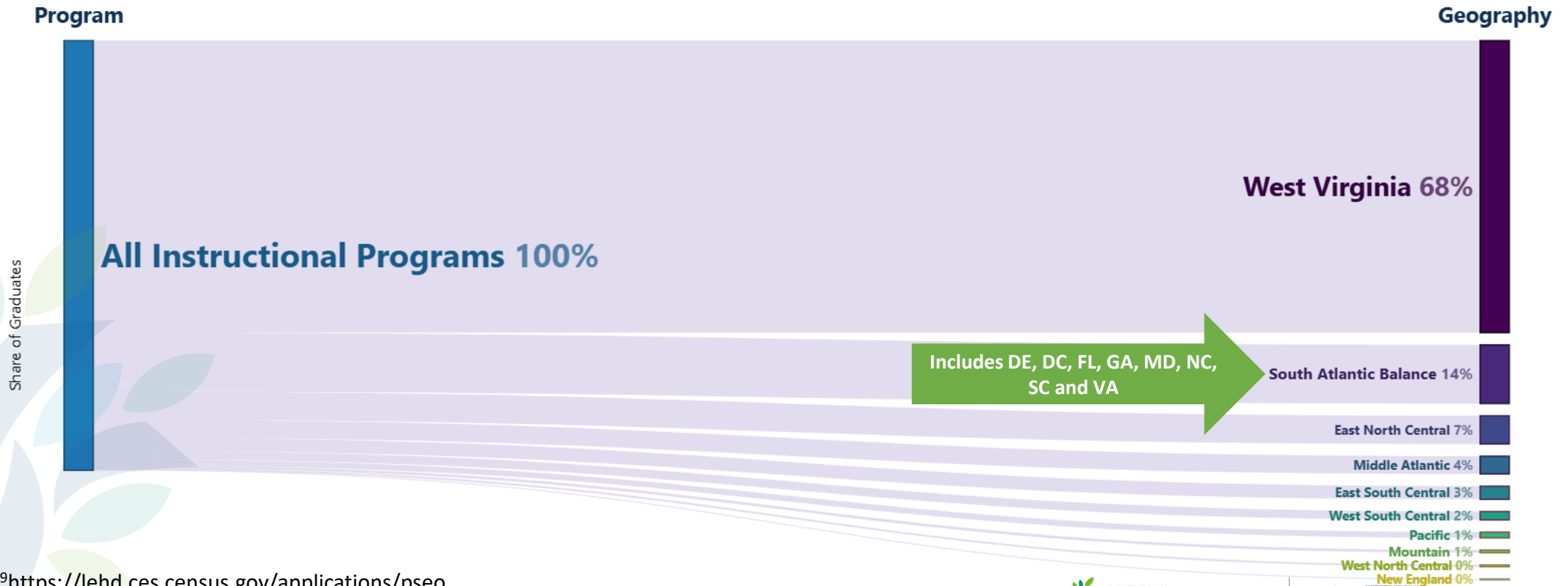
Degree Level
Associates ▾

Graduation Cohort
All Cohorts ▾

Destination Flows
☒ Industry ☐ Geo

Years-postgrad Filter
1 5 10

Display
☒ # Count ☐ % Share



⁹<https://lehd.ces.census.gov/applications/pseo>

Communicating the Value of a Postsecondary Credential



Half of those with a Bachelor's degree from one of our in-state public institutions work in WV one year after graduation⁹



PSEO

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer

What is PSEO?

Download Data

Email Us

Tutorial

Help

Data Type

Earnings

Flows

State

West Virginia

Institution

All Partner Institutions in West Virginia

Degree Level

Baccalaureate

Graduation Cohort

All Cohorts

Destination Flows

Industry

Geo

Years-postgrad Filter

1

5

10

Display

Count

% Share

Program

All Instructional Programs 100%

Share of Graduates

Geography

West Virginia 50%

Includes DE, DC, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC and VA

South Atlantic Balance 20%

Middle Atlantic 13%

East North Central 7%

East South Central 3%

West South Central 2%

Pacific 2%

Mountain 1%

West North Central 1%

New England 1%



⁹<https://lehd.ces.census.gov/applications/pseo>

Takeaways on Communicating Campus and Employment Location

- Both 2- and 4-year in-state public institutions have campuses throughout West Virginia, allowing students to remain close to home.
- For those who do not have a campus nearby, online courses leading to an associate or Bachelor's degree may be taken online.
- Over 80% of those graduating with an associate degree work within the state or within the region.
- Seventy percent of those graduating with a Bachelor's degree work within the state or within the region.

Communicating ROI Value of College

ROI fact sheet communicates the value of higher education to students and families



COLLEGE IS AFFORDABLE

FAFSA = FREE MONEY FOR COLLEGE



Filling out the FAFSA is **KEY** to finding out if you qualify for **FINANCIAL AID**

TUITION - FAFSA = \$0 out of pocket

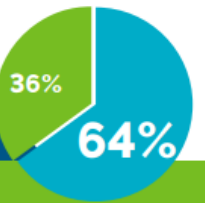
College Type	Average 2025-2026 Tuition
2-Year College	\$5,024/year <small>For an associate degree.</small>
4-Year College	\$9,294/year

Aid Type	Max Award	Who Is Eligible
Pell Grant	Up to \$7,395	Based on financial need
Promise Scholarship*	Up to \$5,500	Based on grades, test scores and other criteria
WV Higher Education Grant (WVHEGP)	Up to \$3,400/year	Based on financial need
WV Invests Grant*	Covers full tuition for many certificate and 2-year programs <small>Last-dollar-in if remaining tuition costs are not covered by other aid.</small>	Based on other aid eligibility**


*FAFSA and additional application required.
**The WV Invests Grant may have to be paid back if the recipient cannot document living in WV for at least 2 years after they are no longer enrolled at least part time.



LEARN MORE! [CFWV.COM/FINANCIAL-AID](https://cfwv.com/financial-aid)



Did you know?
64% of West Virginia students who earn an undergraduate certificate graduate **debt-free**.



WHAT CAN YOU EARN WITH A DEGREE?

MORE EDUCATION = MORE MONEY

College graduates earn significantly more than their peers with a high school diploma.


For example, six years after graduation, associate degree holders earn nearly **\$19,000** more and bachelor's degree holders earn **\$21,000** more annually than high school graduates.

Education Levels & Salary*

*Graduates from West Virginia institutions working in the state.

Median Salary Working in West Virginia (4 years after graduation)

Education Level	Median Salary
High School Diploma	\$34,000
Certificate	\$46,000
Associate Degree	\$53,000
Bachelor's Degree	\$55,000



Job Spotlights

Short-term programs lead to high-paying jobs.

-  **Welding Certificate**
 - Tuition covered by WV Invests
 - Median Salary: \$49,346
-  **Registered Nursing Degree (Bachelor's Degree)**
 - Up to \$8,900/year from Promise + West Virginia Higher Education Grant
 - Median WV Salary \$82,556

LEARN MORE! [SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE WAGES & SALARY INFORMATION](#)

Data Explorer



[About](#) ▾ [Institutions](#) [Resources](#) ▾ [Data and Publication Center](#) [News](#) [Join Our Team!](#)



Explorer is an interactive data tool that provides public access to higher education data ranging from the postsecondary aspirations of graduating high school seniors, to their success in college, and workforce outcomes. Use the links below to explore on your own!



<https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/>

Communicating the Value of a Postsecondary Credential



Student Loan Dashboard

Year

2022

Institution Type

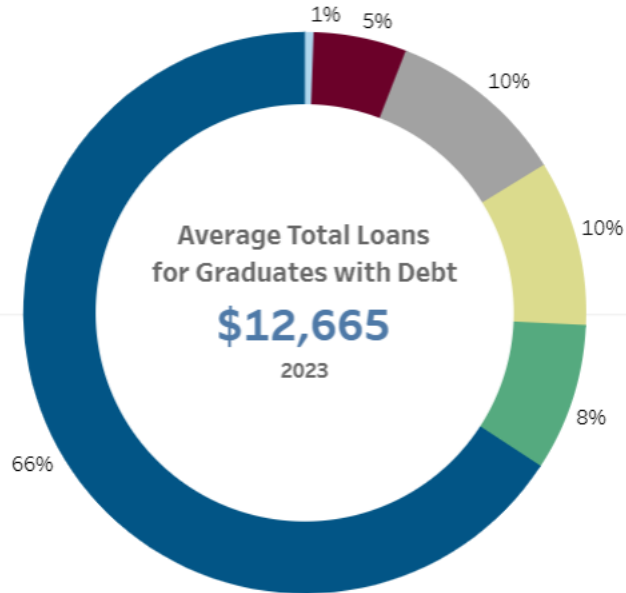
2-Year

Residency Status

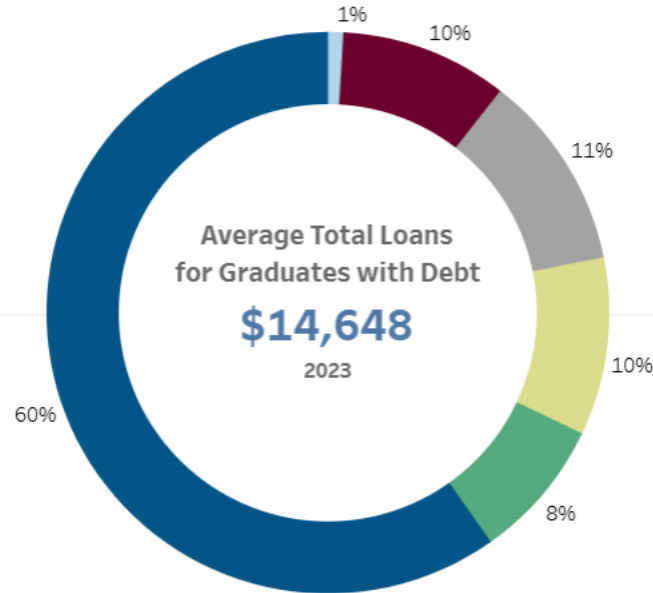
Resident

Total Student Loan Debt by Degree Level

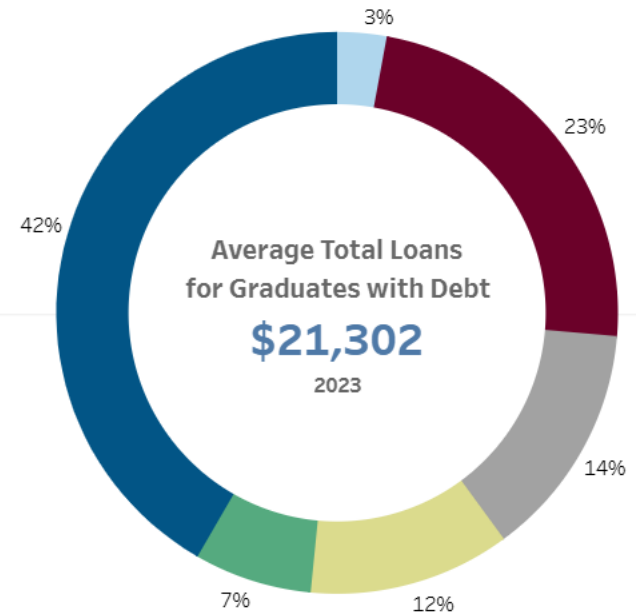
1-Year Certificate



Associate Degree



Bachelor's Degree



■ No Loan
■ Less Than \$5,000
■ \$5,001 to \$10,000
■ \$10,001 to \$20,000
■ \$20,001 to \$50,000
■ \$50,001 and Over

<https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/affordability/>

Communicating the Value of a Postsecondary Credential

Workforce Outcomes Dashboard

Workforce Outcomes for Public High School and Postsecondary Graduates

The data presented on this dashboard were derived from the The West Virginia P-20 Statewide Longitudinal Data System (**P-20 SLDS**)*. This dashboard is designed to provide public access to key data elements that provide insight into the employment outcomes of the state's public high school and postsecondary graduates.

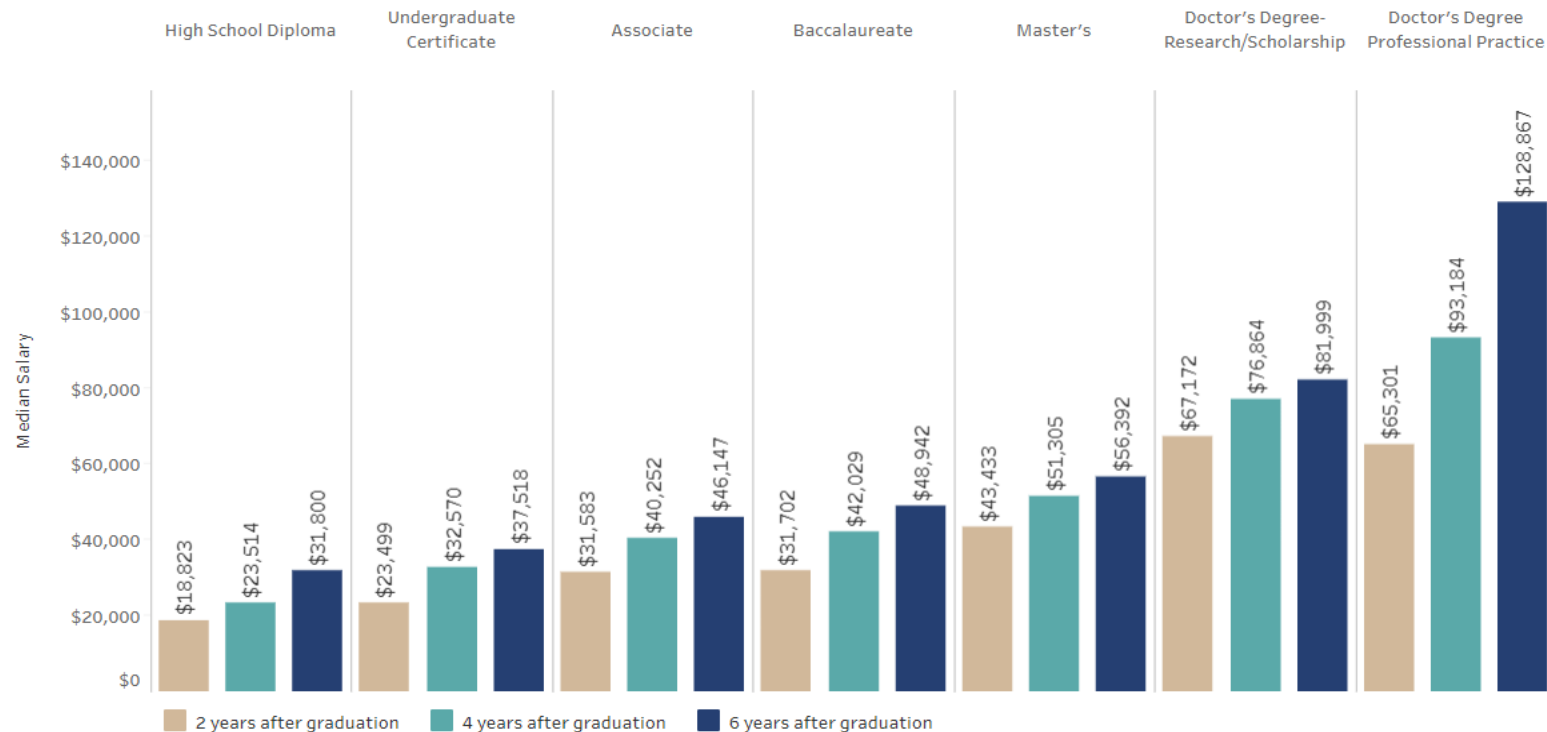
Graduation Year

2016-2017

State/Institutional

Statewide

Annual median wages for **2016-2017** Statewide graduates by the highest degree earned in West Virginia.



COHORT DEFINITION

This cohort includes West Virginia public high school and postsecondary graduates from the academic year **2016-2017** who earned wages in all 4 quarters during the year in West Virginia.

WAGE DATA

- Wage data include graduates who: a) were employed in West Virginia; and b) worked all 4 quarters during the year;
- Wage data do **NOT** include graduates who: a) were employed outside of West Virginia; b) were self employed; c) worked less than a full year; d) worked for the federal government;

Small cell sizes have been suppressed to protect the privacy of the individuals represented.

Doctor's Degree Professional Practice - Median wages for the first two years in health related fields may reflect income while students were enrolled in residency programs.

<https://www.wvhepc.edu/resources/data-and-publication-center/workforce-data/>

Communicating the Value of a Postsecondary Credential

Institution-Specific Data



BLUEFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY

DEGREE AREAS
UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE

- Health Sciences
- Engineering
- Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Business
- Education

FOUNDED IN 1895

PRESIDENT
DR. DARRIN MARTIN

LOCATED IN
BLUEFIELD, WV

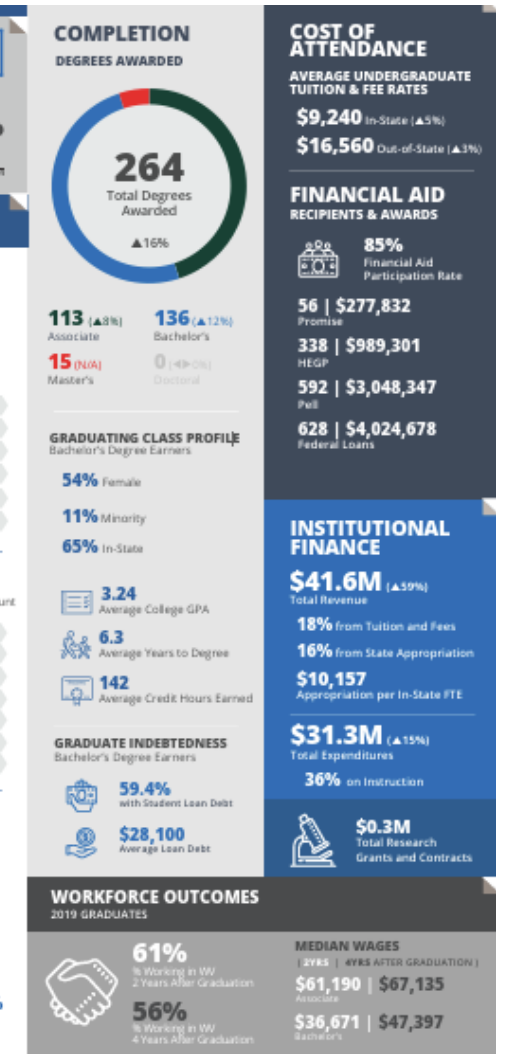
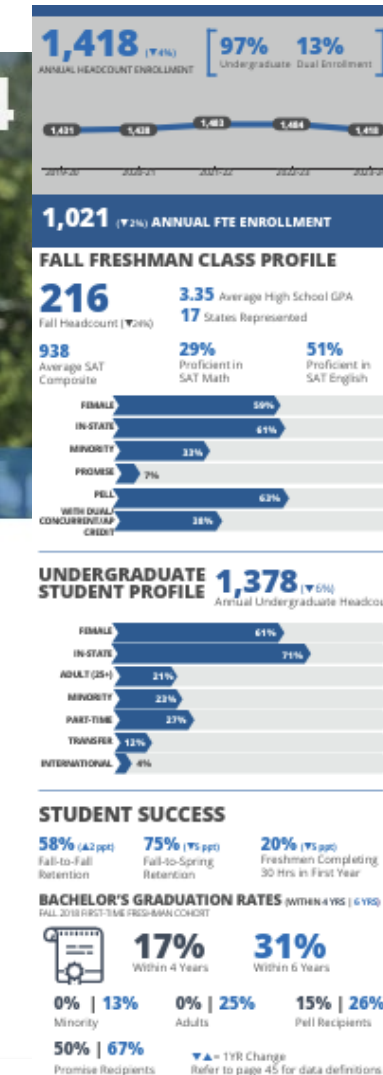
STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO
14:1

DEGREE LEVELS OFFERED
Associate, Bachelor's

CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION
Baccalaureate Colleges: Diverse Fields

LEARN MORE ABOUT BLUEFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY AT:
www.bluefieldstate.edu

3 | 2024 WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION ALMANAC



US Census Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer



Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer

[What is PSEO?](#) [Download Data](#) [Email Us](#) [Tutorial](#) [Help](#)

Data Type
☒ Earnings ☐ Flows

State
West Virginia

Institution
All Partner Institutions in West Virginia

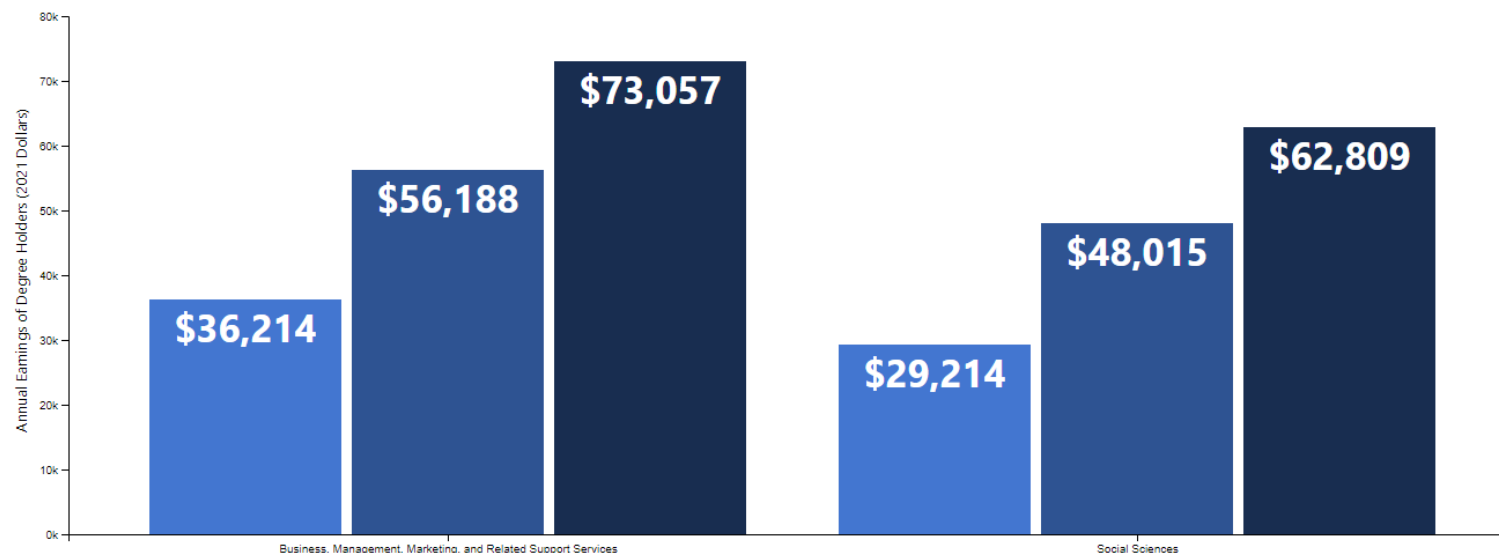
Degree Level
Baccalaureate

Graduation Cohort
All Cohorts

Compare Earnings by
☒ Time ☐ Percent

Earnings-percentile Filter
25 50 75

Legend
1 Years Postgrad
5 Years Postgrad
10 Years Postgrad



Program Specificity
☒ General ☐ Detailed

Sort Program List by
Size Name

Filter Degrees...

All Instructional Programs	Business, Management, Marketing, and Rel...	Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies ...	Health Professions and Related Programs	Education
Engineering	Communication, Journalism, and Related P...	Social Sciences	Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	Biological and Biomedical Sciences
Psychology	Visual and Performing Arts	Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Fire...	Engineering/Engineering-Related Technolo...	Parks, Recreation, Leisure, Fitness, and Ki...
Agricultural/Animal/Plant/Veterinary Scienc...	English Language and Literature/Letters	Computer and Information Sciences and Su...	History	Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sci...
Physical Sciences	Natural Resources and Conservation	Public Administration and Social Service Pr...	Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Lingui...	Mathematics and Statistics
Architecture and Related Services	Communications Technologies/Technicians ...	Philosophy and Religious Studies		

<https://lehd.ces.census.gov/applications/pseo/?type=earnings&compare=postgrad&specificity=2&state=54&institution=54°reelevel=05&gradcohort=0000-3&filter=50&program=52,45>

Discussion & Questions



Statewide Initiatives Update

Enroll. Enlist. Employ.



November 2025 WV GEAR UP Program Meeting
Heather McChesney, Director of Statewide Access Initiatives



CELEBRATE

FIRST

 ***GEN***

NOVEMBER 3RD - 8TH, 2025



**First milestone for ALL levels of CHAMPIONS:
COMPLETED!**



College Application & Exploration Week



October 27-31, 2025



Application and Exploration events and activities were held all over the state.



Over 600 pictures and videos were shared over social media platforms.



To view the celebration visit: <https://wakelet.com/wake/pKd1Fgg3z7eZmsE3qtv2u>



The postevent survey is now live: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CAEWPostEvent>

Middle School Champions: Campus Visits & Culture Projects



[Campus Visit Toolkits](#) will be included in the box with your culture project materials. If you are planning a virtual campus visit, please visit our NEW Virtual College Visits website: [Virtual College Visits - CFWV.com](#)



Culture Project Boxes are being mailed this week for you to work on your bulletin boards. Be on the lookout for them in the coming days! If you haven't completed your Culture Survey, please do so here: [Middle School Champions College-Going Culture Assessment Survey](#)



Once you have completed your Campus Visit, whether in person or virtually, please complete the postevent survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MiddleSchoolCampusVisit>

Elementary School Champions: Career Day & Proclamation Day Updates



Career Day Toolkits are LIVE. Please visit: <https://www.cfwv.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Champions-Elementary-School-Career-Fair-Toolkit.pdf>



Once you have completed your Career Day, please be sure to complete the Career Fair postevent survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CareerDayElementary>



Please schedule your Proclamation Days AFTER March 1. We will not be mailing you your banners until mid February. Thank you!

Champions Trackers

Before you email me to ask about your status, first, head to

<https://www.cfww.com/champion/>

and click on school level to determine what is missing or where you stand.



ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

MIDDLE
SCHOOL

HIGH
SCHOOL

HIGHER
EDUCATION

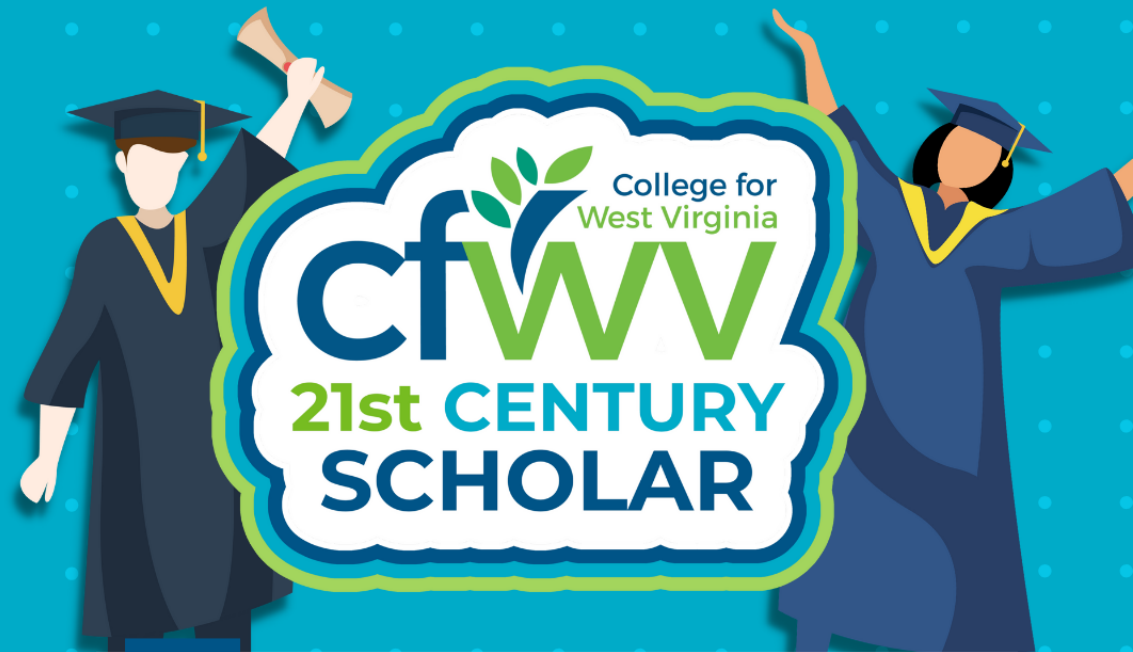
Once on the proper school-level page, click on “track your school’s progress.” This is updated weekly by Friday. **THANK YOU!**



Pathway Registration

Track your school's progress

1. Students must apply to Promise or Invests; they don't necessarily have to qualify.
2. Students need to complete all three milestones or activities.
3. Students need to stay opted into the texting program. If they "STOP OUT," they will be disqualified from 21st Century Scholars. They can opt back in by registering again if they have already opted out.
4. Please note that a texting column is now on FAMS.
5. I will have a survey/form for you to complete the week of April 15th to submit your cord orders, so they are delivered to you in time for graduation. You will determine your number based on the information found in FAMS. Students must have opted and stayed in the texting program, submitted a FAFSA, and applied for either Promise or Invests. You can determine this via FAMS. This provides students time to complete the Promise (deadline of March 1), Invests (priority date of April 15), and FAFSA.
6. There is no cost to the schools or counties for the cords.



Sign up for TXT-4-Success by texting "CFWV" to (304) 912-2398



File the 2026-2027 FAFSA on studentaid.gov



Apply for the West Virginia Invests Grant or Promise Scholarship

“TXT 4 SUCCESS” & START YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE!

Opt in today by texting **“CFWV”** to
(304) 912-CFWV (2398) and receive
special text messaging services:

- College Tips
- Important Reminders
- Help from a College Access Advisor
- And More



- **Class of 2026**

- Now is the time to begin registering your senior students in the Txt-4-Success initiative. Students will begin receiving 2-3 texts per month from CFWV in October. The text messages sent to students serve as general college reminders and advice, such as key deadlines and regular check-ins to ensure students are transitioning well into college life. Students who plan to attend one of our partner institutions will then begin to receive additional messages specific to their college.. Additionally, students who opt in to the service can text anytime to have any of their college questions answered by a college access advisor. For additional information, please visit:
<https://www.cfwvconnect.com/txt-4-success/>

- Students may also text "CFWV" to 304-912-CFWV(2398) to enroll in the Texting Program.





Contact

Heather McChesney, Director of Statewide Access Initiatives
heather.mcchesney@wvhepc.edu | 304-558-0655



Meeting Adjourned