

myFutureNC Local Educational Attainment Collaboratives launched by ncIMPACT Initiative: Building local capacity to achieve the state's goal of 2 million by 2030

Your community's talent development potential remains key to your economic competitiveness or disadvantage in today's economy, whether high-tech or service industries dominate your region. Prior to the pandemic, 58% of jobs in North Carolina required some form of postsecondary attainment. The pandemic accelerated this trend, while decelerating attainment: dropout rates may triple, and first-time community college and university enrollment declined 21%. We must expand our education to career connections to meet the economic realities we face.

The ncIMPACT Initiative at the UNC School of Government (ncIMPACT), myFutureNC, with funding provided by the John M. Belk Endowment, will offer a two-year pilot program that supports 15 local educational attainment collaboratives across the state that seek to significantly increase the number of students successfully completing post-secondary credentials of value in the workforce: a degree, credential, or certification. This effort aligns with the state's legislative goal of 2 million individuals between the ages of 25 and 44 who possess a high-quality credential or postsecondary

www.bit.ly/LEAC-project



Selected collaboratives will serve as leaders in implementing positive strategies for post-secondary educational attainment in their communities and will pilot practices that benefit communities across the state.

Program Basics

Local communities applied as teams to participate in this two-year program focused on increasing educational attainment and equity in attainment. Teams will become the inaugural myFutureNC Network of Local Educational Attainment Collaboratives. This network will:

- **Have deep local impact** by increasing the effectiveness of the local attainment collaboratives and connections among educational systems, employers, local governments, and other stakeholders within the participating communities;
- **Build capacity across the state** by creating collaborative cross-community learning and partnerships, and delivering model policies to inform North Carolina's broader policy landscape; and
- **Leverage key resources** including federal, state, and philanthropic funding, as well as data tools and metrics to measure collaborative progress toward achieving their goals.

Network collaboratives will also receive these benefits:

- **Valuable resources** that respond to immediate concerns about learning loss during the pandemic and help prepare for longer-term planning;
- **Deep expert and peer support during** five forums at which teams will develop goals, make plans for implementation, and collaborate across sectors;
- **Robust technical assistance** throughout the process;
- **Critical financial support** in the form of \$15,000 to compensate a community project manager and \$10,000 of implementation funding for their action plan; and a
- **Local Attainment Collaborative Toolkit** to implement and sustain demand-informed local collaboration with regional employers.

Team Formation

After selection for the program, the core team identified in the application will identify the full community team (local collaborative). The collaborative will include a diverse team of community stakeholders, all committed to active participation in the two-year program. nclIMPACT will assist communities with stakeholder identification to build the collaborative team. Given differences between communities, the composition of the teams will vary.

Commitments

Each community collaborative must be prepared to meet monthly over the course of the program to develop and implement a cogent strategy that (1) leverages existing assets and activities, (2) increases the community's educational attainment by 5%, and (3) improves equity in attainment. A community project manager will support this work (with funding provided by the program) in addition to the technical assistance provided by the partners.

Contact Us

Anita Brown-Graham
Professor & Director, nclIMPACT Initiative
brgraham@sog.unc.edu

Emily Williamson Gangi
Policy Engagement Director, nclIMPACT Initiative
(Project Manager)
emily.gangi@unc.edu