

# Higher Education in Colorado

**Our challenges and our goals**

*Colorado Commission on Higher Education*

---

# A brief overview: Watch the video



# Colorado Commission on Higher Education

An 11-member, bipartisan council appointed by the governor, with at least one member from each Congressional district

Responsibilities include:

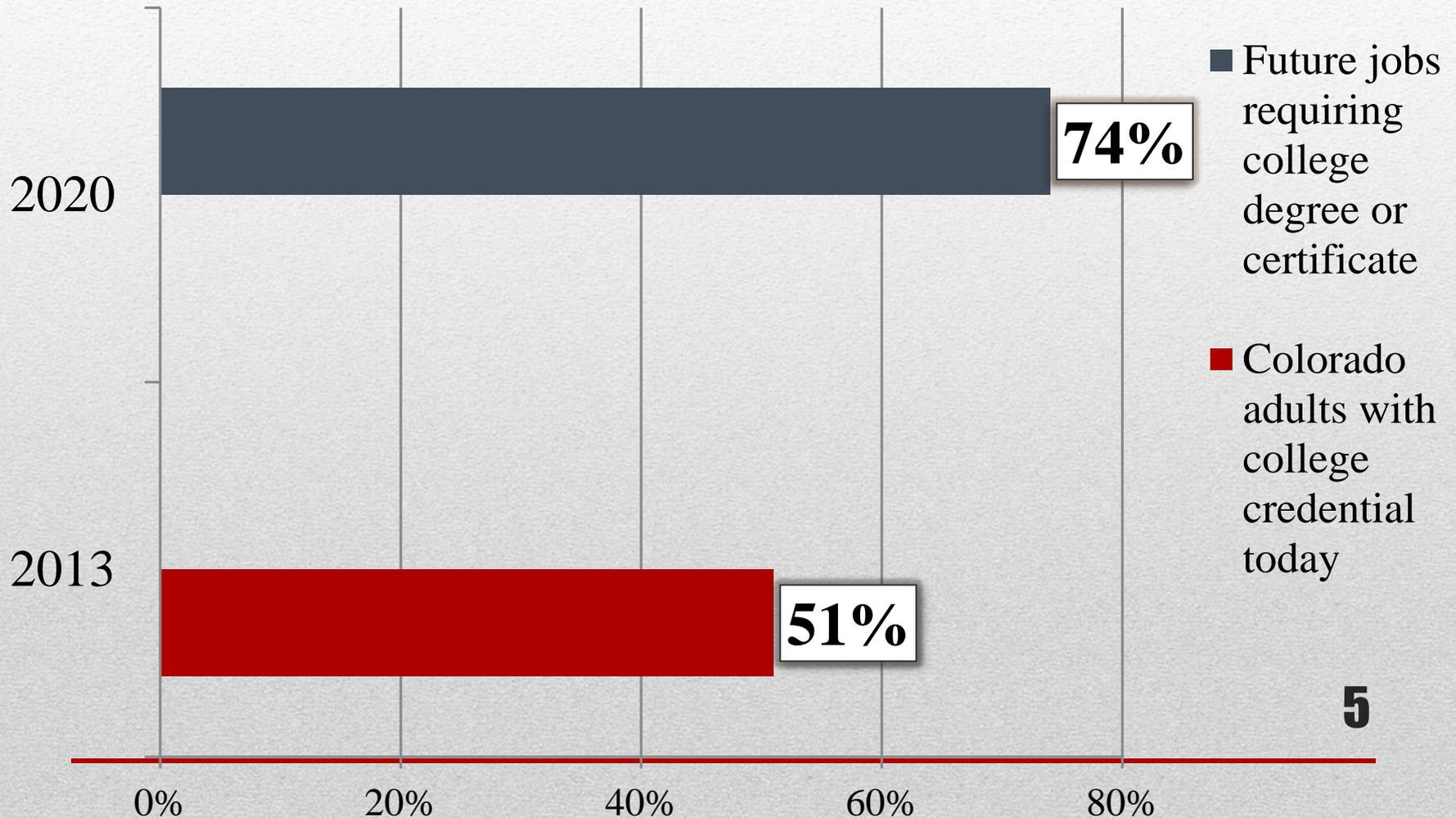
- *Institutional funding*
- *Student financial aid*
- *Long-range planning*



# Colorado's higher education challenges

- **Workforce needs** – *We won't have enough educated Coloradans to fill our state's jobs in 2020.*
- **Education pipeline** – *Fewer than 25 percent of Colorado 9<sup>th</sup>-graders earn a college degree.*
- **Completion gaps** – *The fastest-growing segments of our population are least likely to earn a degree.*
- **Shifting financial burden** – *The share of college costs paid by students has doubled in 10 years.*

# Challenge: Workforce needs



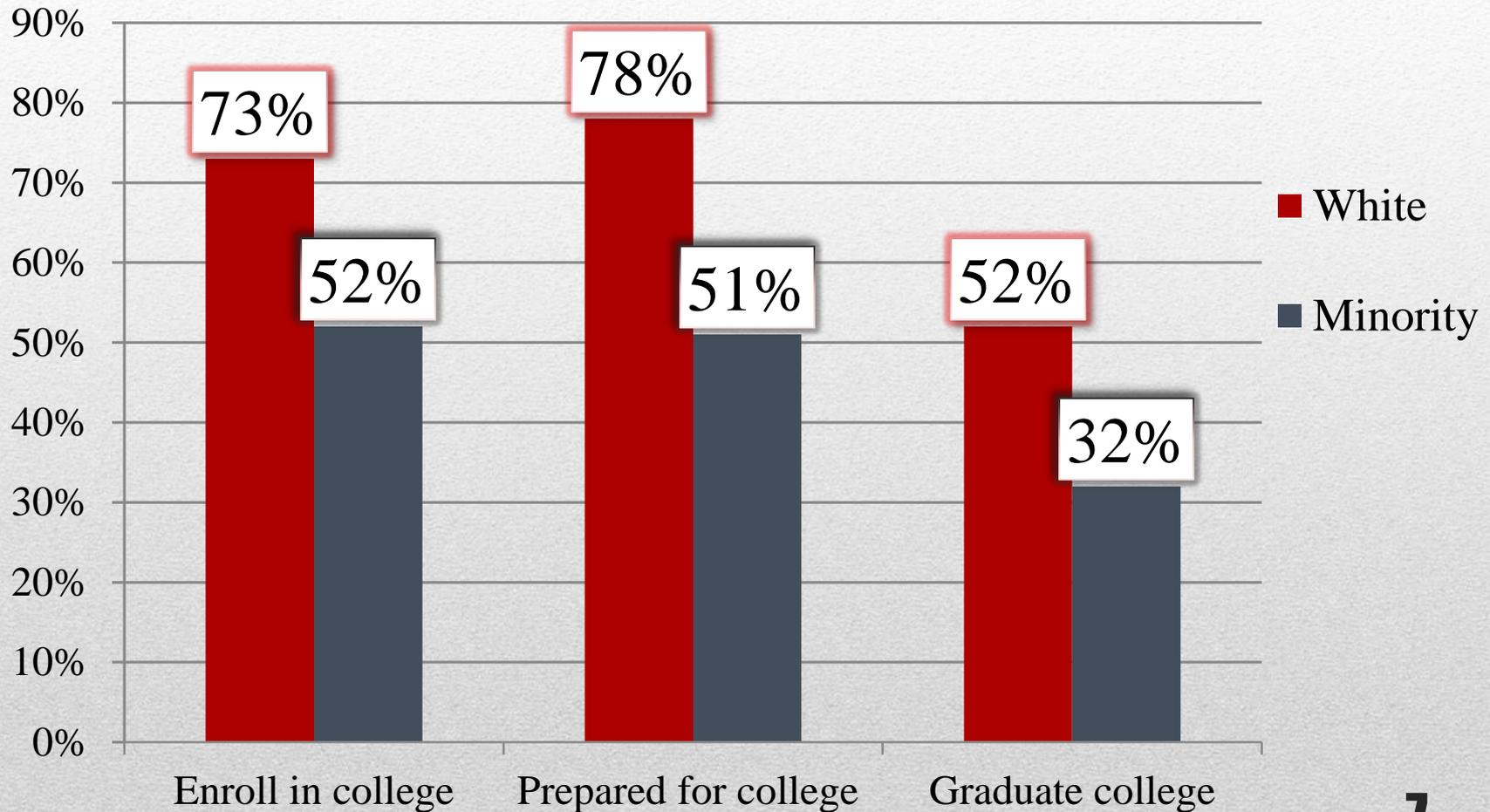
# Challenge: Education pipeline

For every **100 9<sup>th</sup>-graders** in Colorado,

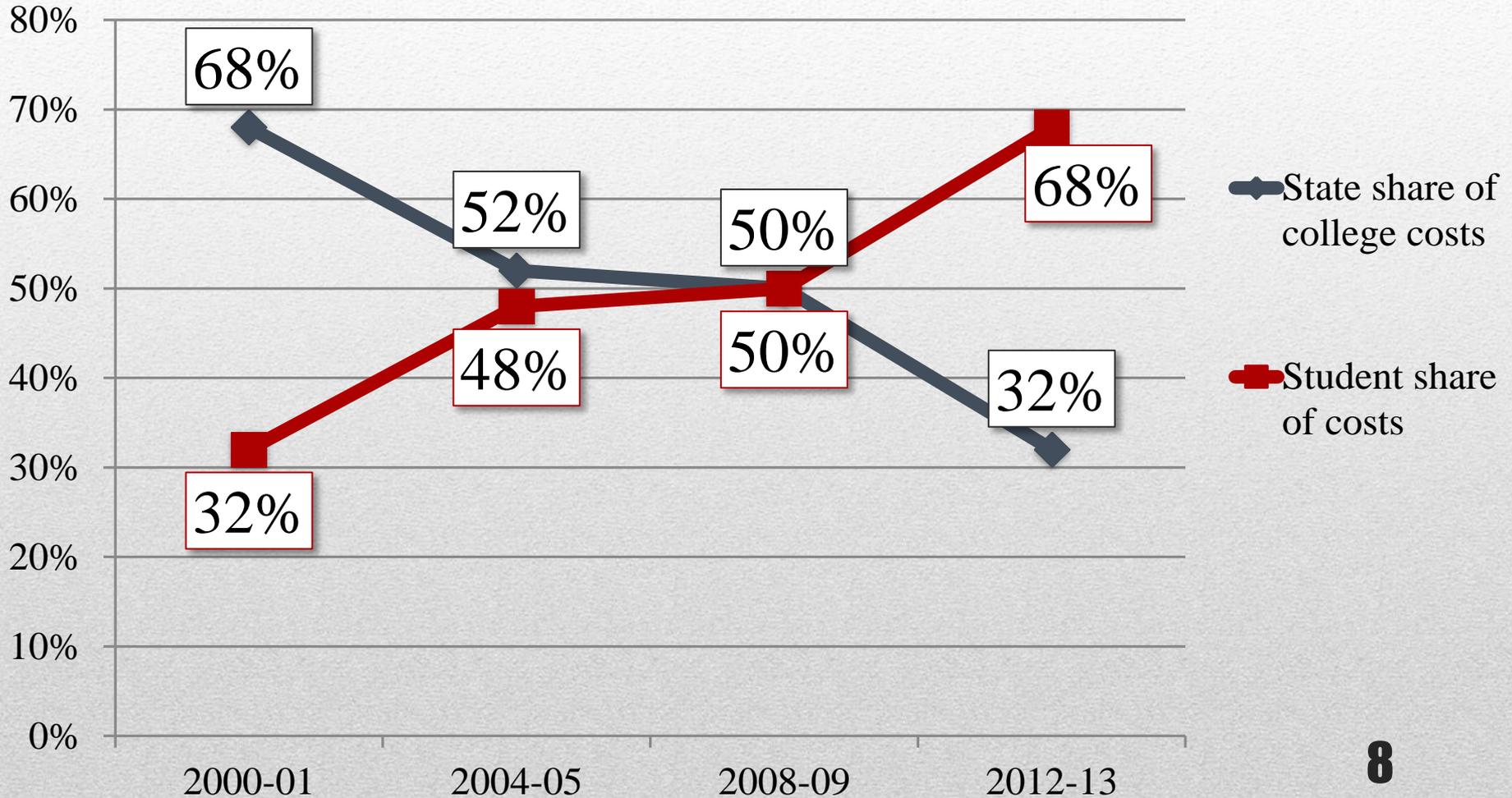
- **50** go to college
- **22** earn a college degree



# Challenge: Degree completion gaps by ethnicity



# Challenge: Shifting burden from state to students



# Why higher education matters

## *Personal benefits*

- Earn more
- Vote more
- Have healthier lifestyles
- Value education for children



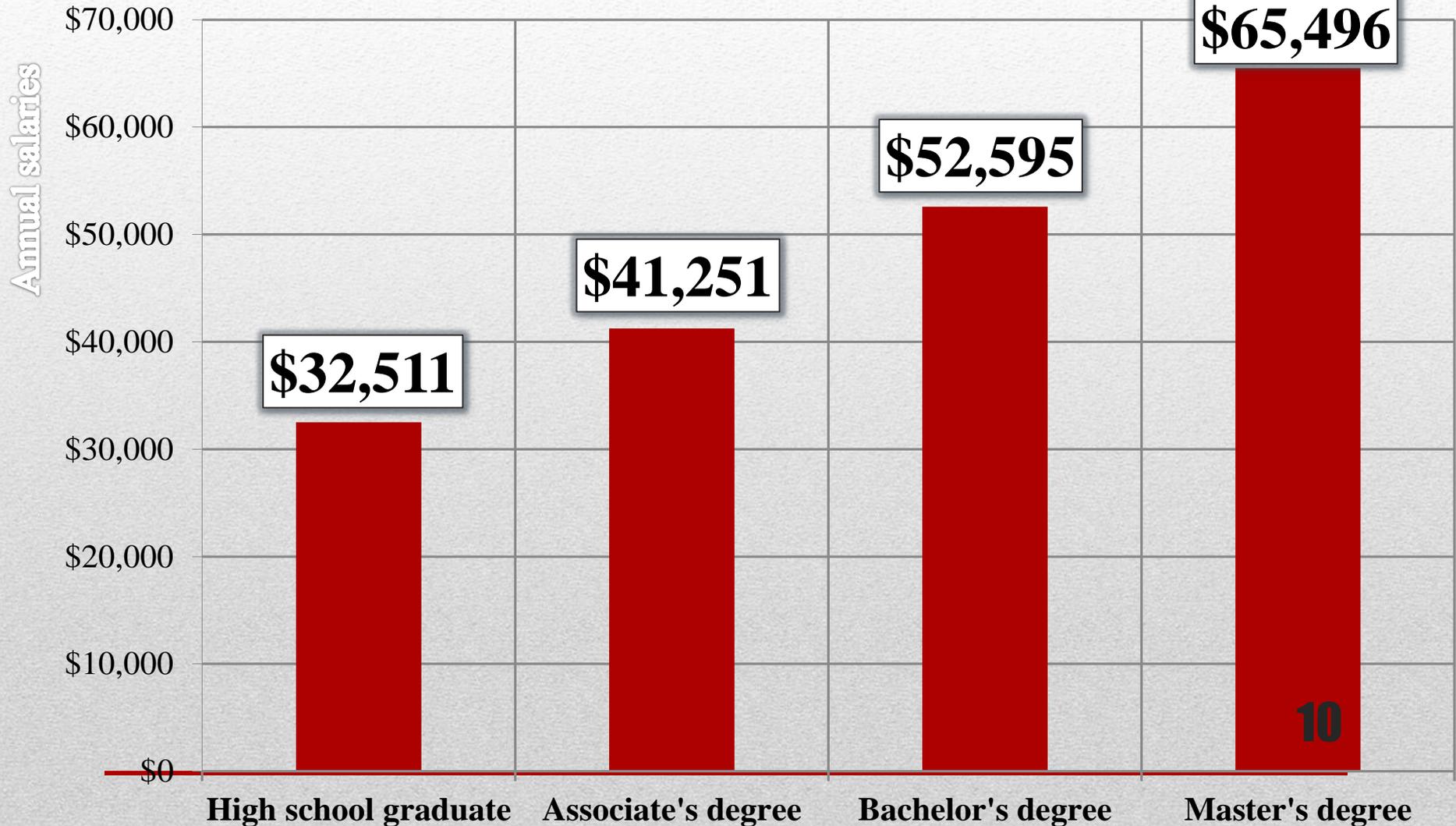
## *Community benefits*

- Attract better jobs
- Lower unemployment rates
- Lower incarceration rates
- Reduced health costs



*Personal Benefit*

# Median Colorado earnings by degree, 2008-10



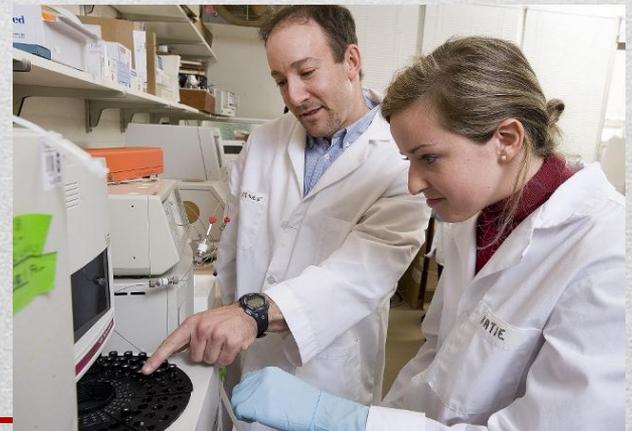
*Community Benefit*

# Economic impacts of our campuses

*Higher education in Colorado supports ...*

- **97,563 jobs**, which contribute
- **\$4.25 billion** in wages and salaries, and
- **\$387 million** in state and local taxes

*to Colorado's economy annually*



# Our goals: Meeting the challenges

CCHE's master plan sets four primary goals:

- **Increase degree attainment** *by at least 1,000 credentials a year to meet workforce demands.*
- **Improve student success** *through better remedial education, enhanced support services and reduced average time to degree completion.*
- **Reduce completion gaps** *among students from underserved communities by enhancing access to, and through, postsecondary institutions.*
- **Restore fiscal balance** *by increasing state support of higher education while promoting affordability, accessibility and efficiency.*

# Achieving our goals: Focus on performance

## PAST

Focus largely on increasing  
ACCESS to college:

Who's getting to  
campus?

## TODAY

Add emphasis on  
COMPLETION of degree:

Who's earning a  
degree?

# Questions to consider

- How can I help?
- How can I stay informed?
- Who can I talk to?

*We welcome your feedback!*

---

