## As America Becomes More Diverse: The Impact of State Higher Education Inequality

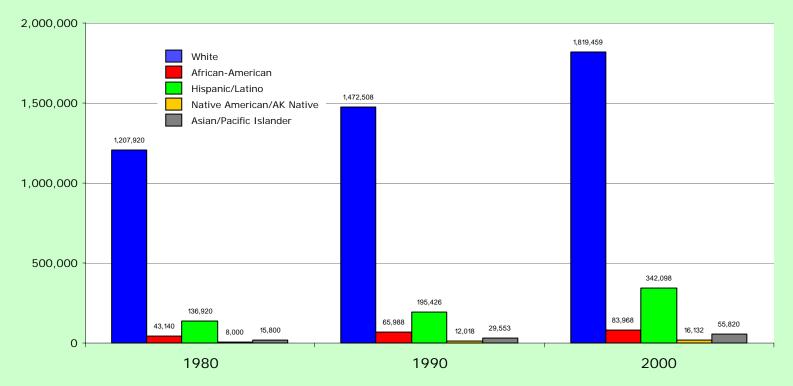
### Colorado State Profile

#### **Questions You Should Ask**

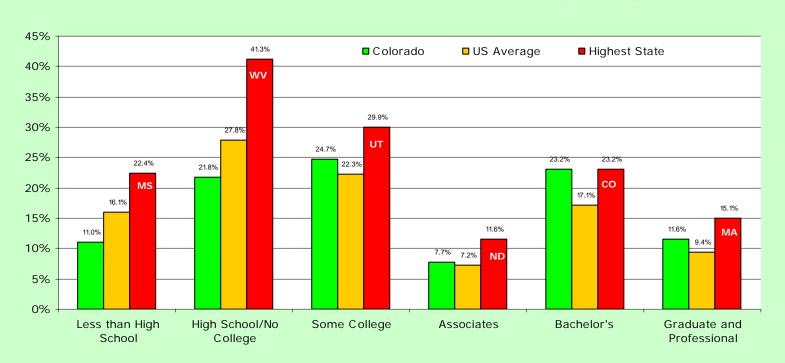
- How educated is Colorado's adult population and workforce?
- How does Colorado compare to the national average, the most educated states, and the most educated countries?
- What are the disparities in educational attainment, participation and completion in higher education, and personal income by gender and race/ethnicity?
- How is the demographic composition of Colorado expected to change?
- ❖ How will expected changes in demography given current disparities in education and personal income – affect the overall educational attainment and personal income of Colorado?

# The Impact of State Higher Education Inequality Colorado State Profile

Racial/Ethnic Composition of Colorado's Working Age Population (Ages 25 to 64) from 1980 to 2000

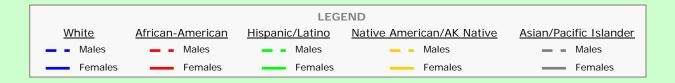


#### Educational Attainment of 25 to 64 Year Olds in 2000 (All Races)

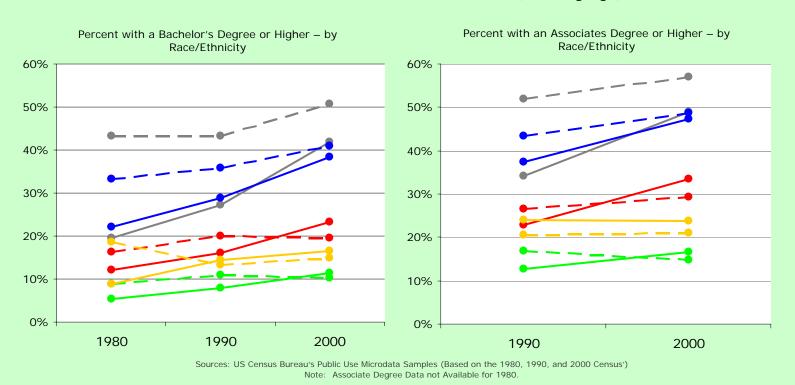


Sources: US Census Bureau's Public Use Microdata Samples (Based on the 1990 and 2000 Census')

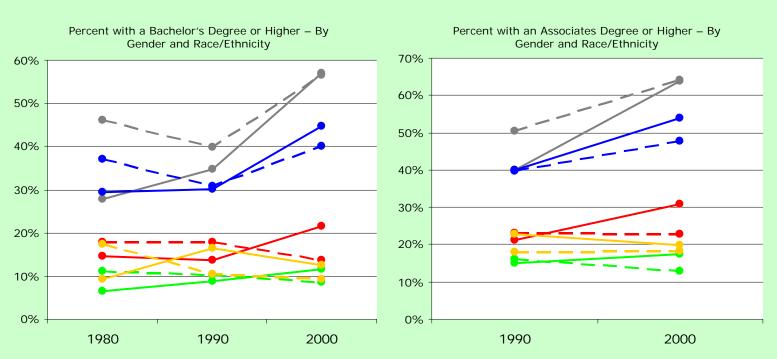
#### Disparities in Educational Attainment by Gender and Race/Ethnicity



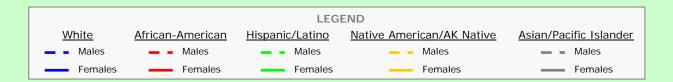
#### Educational Attainment of 25 to 64 Year Olds (Working Age)



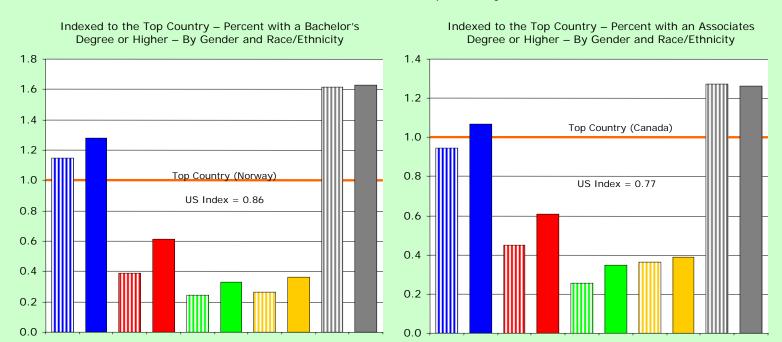
#### Educational Attainment of 25 to 34 Year Olds (The Young Workforce)



# Educational Attainment by Gender and Race/Ethnicity (25 to 34 Year Olds Continued)



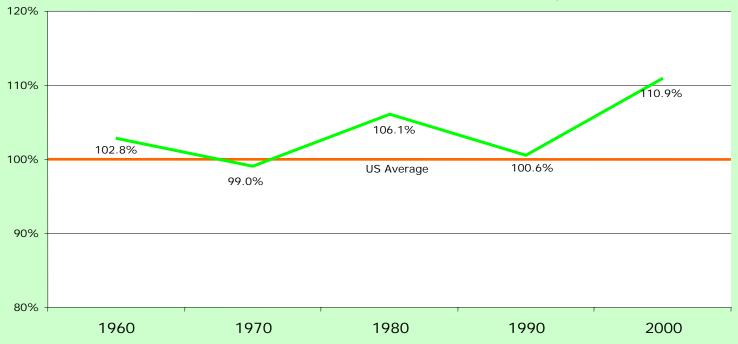
### Educational Attainment of 25 to 34 Year Olds (The Young Workforce) Indexed to the Top Country



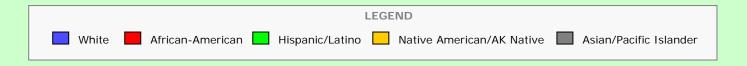
Sources: US Census Bureau's Public Use Microdata Samples (Based on the 2000 Census) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

#### Personal Income

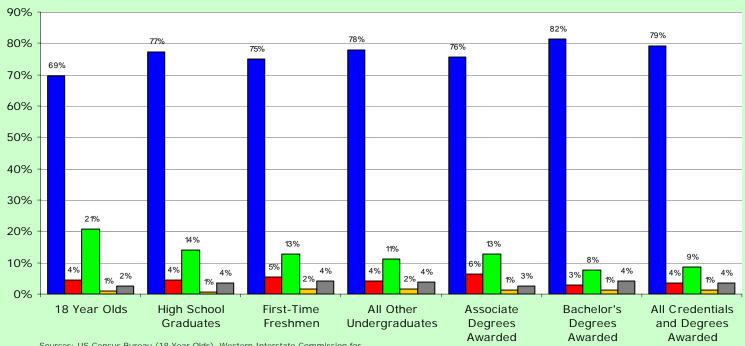
#### Colorado's Personal Income Per Capita as a Percent of the US Average (1960 to 2000)



#### Higher Education Participation and Completion by Race/Ethnicity



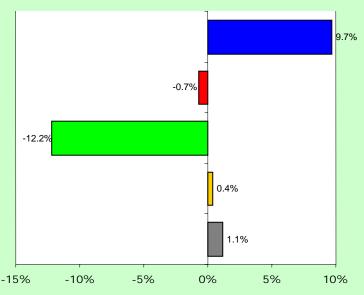
#### Representation (%) of Race/Ethnic Groups at Each Stage of the Education Pipeline (2002)



Sources: US Census Bureau (18 Year Olds), Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (HS Graduates), and the National Center for Education Statistics (College Participation and Completion)

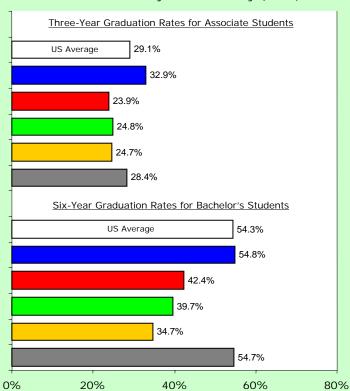
#### Actual vs. Parity

Difference in the Percentage of Credentials Awarded and the Percentage of 18 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity (2002)



Sources: US Census Bureau (18 Year Olds), Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (HS Graduates), and the National Center for Education Statistics (College Participation and Completion)

#### Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity (2002)

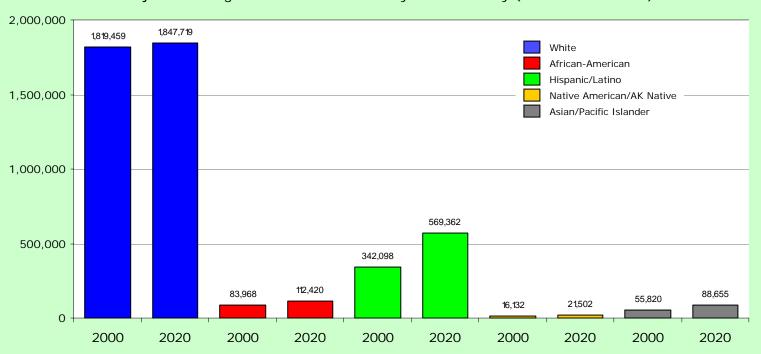


Source: National Center for Education Statistics (IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey)

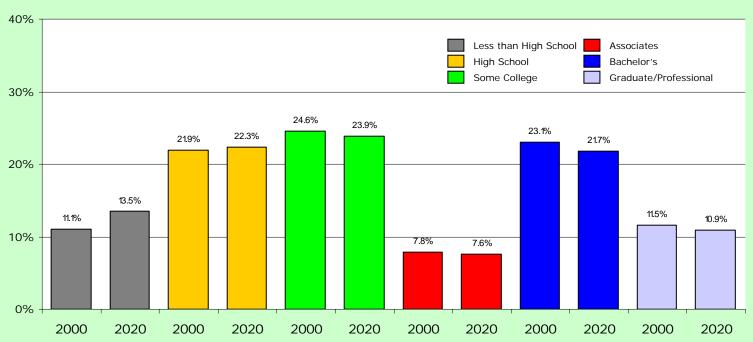
# The Impact of Changing Demographics on Educational Attainment and Personal Income (2000 to 2020)

Projected changes in educational attainment and personal income per capita are based on the US Census Bureau's population projections by age and race/ethnicity and 2000 educational attainment and personal income data by age and race/ethnicity. The analyses are designed to help answer the following question: "Given current disparities in educational attainment and personal income by age and race/ethnicity, how will the changing demographics in my state impact the overall educational attainment and personal income of the adult population?"

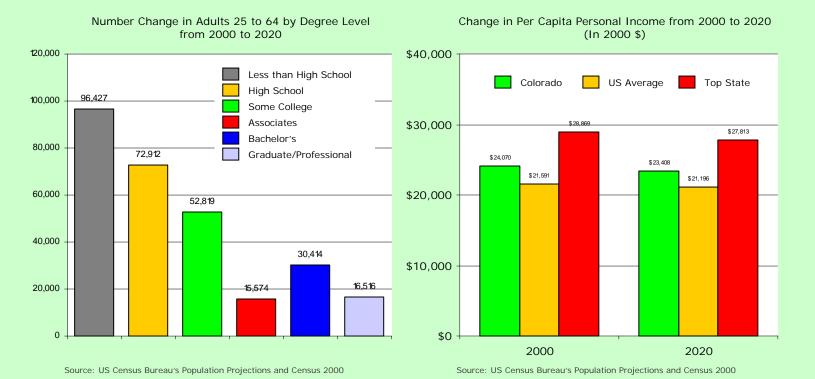
#### Projected Change in 25 to 64 Year Olds by Race/Ethnicity (from 2000 to 2020)



### Changes in Educational Attainment as a Result of the Projected Changes In Race/Ethnicity (25 to 64 Year Olds from 2000 to 2020)



# The Impact of Changing Demographics on Educational Attainment and Personal Income (2000 to 2020) - Continued



If Hispanics/Latinos, African-Americans, and Native Americans achieved the same levels of education as Whites by 2020, Colorado's personal income would increase by \$5.2 Billion (in 2000 \$).

Note: Does not account for racial/ethnic disparities in personal earnings for the same levels of education.

#### The Impact of State Higher Education Inequality

#### **Colorado Summary**

- From 1980 to 2000, Colorado experienced substantial growth among all race/ethnic populations. Hispanics are projected to account for the majority of growth from 2000 to 2020.
- Overall, a high percentage of the workforce has a college education.
- Females have made progress in educational attainment relative Males but sizable disparities still exist among race/ethnic populations. The difference between the two largest populations (White and Hispanic) is the largest of any state. Only 16 percent of Hispanics have a college degree (associates and higher) compared to 48 percent of Whites.
- ❖ Despite increases in educational attainment for the entire population in Colorado, the gaps between Whites and minority populations has widened over the past 20 years. Educational attainment among Hispanic and African-American males has actually declined over the past 10 years.
- Only Whites and Asians exceed the most educated countries in the percentage of adults (ages 25 to 34) with a bachelor's degree and only Asians when accounting for all college degrees (associate and higher) – which is an important consideration in an increasingly global economy.
- The education system in Colorado (from high school to college completion) fails to retain Hispanics at nearly the rate of Whites and Asians. African-Americans also fall out at higher rates. These racial/ethnic disparities are also evident in the graduation rates of college students.
- ❖ Unless these inequities are addressed, current disparities in educational attainment and the population projections by race/ethnicity indicate that Colorado will lose ground in the percentage of its workforce that is college-educated. The most substantial growth will occur in the "less than high school" population.
- ❖ A similar trend is projected for personal income. Colorado's personal income per capita will decline relative to other states which will also have a negative impact on the tax base of Colorado and its ability to provide services to its citizens namely higher education.

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