

IN WEST VIRGINIA, COLLEGE IS NECESSARY.



By the year 2020, more than half of all jobs in West Virginia will require some form of postsecondary education.¹ In 2016, only 31 percent of the state's population met this requirement,² and only around half of high school graduates in the state continued on to college.³ West Virginia's diversifying workforce simply requires college graduates to keep up with the changing demands of the state's economy.

Following the recovery period from the "Great Recession," college graduates with at least a bachelor's degree have occupied 2.8 of the 2.9 million "good" jobs created. "Good" jobs are defined as jobs that rank highly (in the upper third tier) in median wages when compared to similar occupations and pay more than \$53,000 yearly for a full-time, full-year worker. Most of these "good" jobs also offer health insurance and an employer-sponsored retirement plan.¹

Sources: 1 Georgetown University | 2 Bureau of Business & Economic Research | 3 HEPC/Department of Education Data, rounded | 4 National Center for Education Statistics, 2017

EMPLOYMENT RATES OF 20- TO 24-YEAR-OLDS, 2016⁴



