

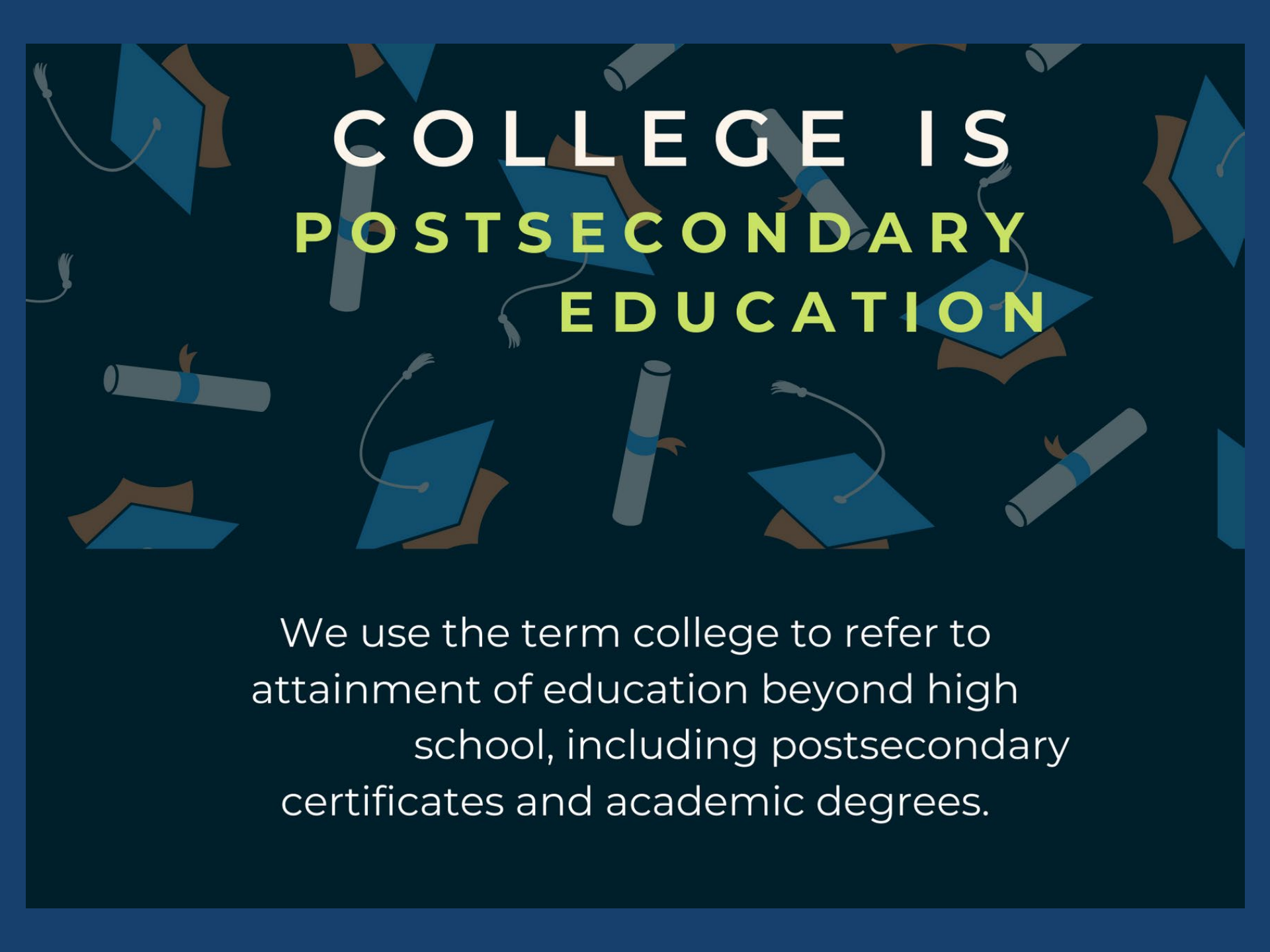


Cradle to Career
Educational Network
for Benzie County
residents

BEST Benzie County

Mission:

Create and support a culture in Benzie County that reduces barriers and improves access to early childhood and post-secondary education for *all* residents including children, students and families, and adult learners.

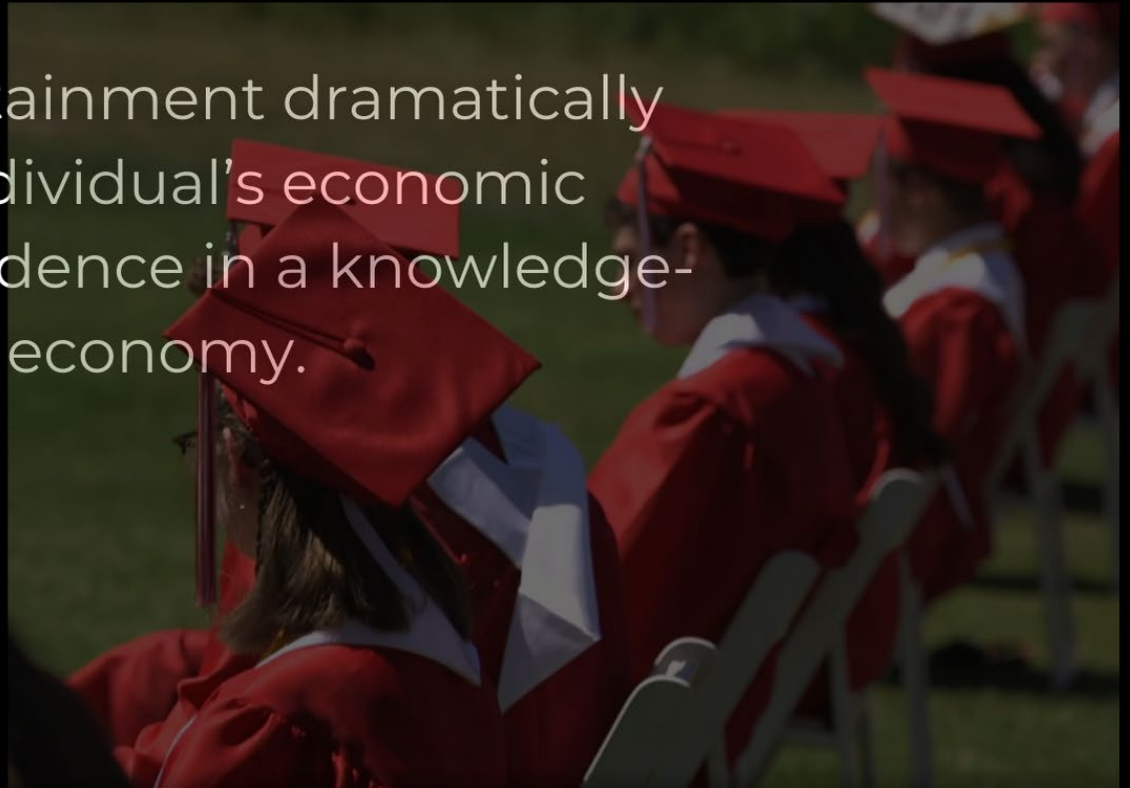
The background of the slide is a dark blue field filled with various graduation-related icons. These include blue mortarboard caps with brown tassels, rolled-up white diplomas tied with blue ribbons, and brown book-like shapes. The icons are scattered across the top half of the slide, creating a celebratory and academic atmosphere.

COLLEGE IS POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

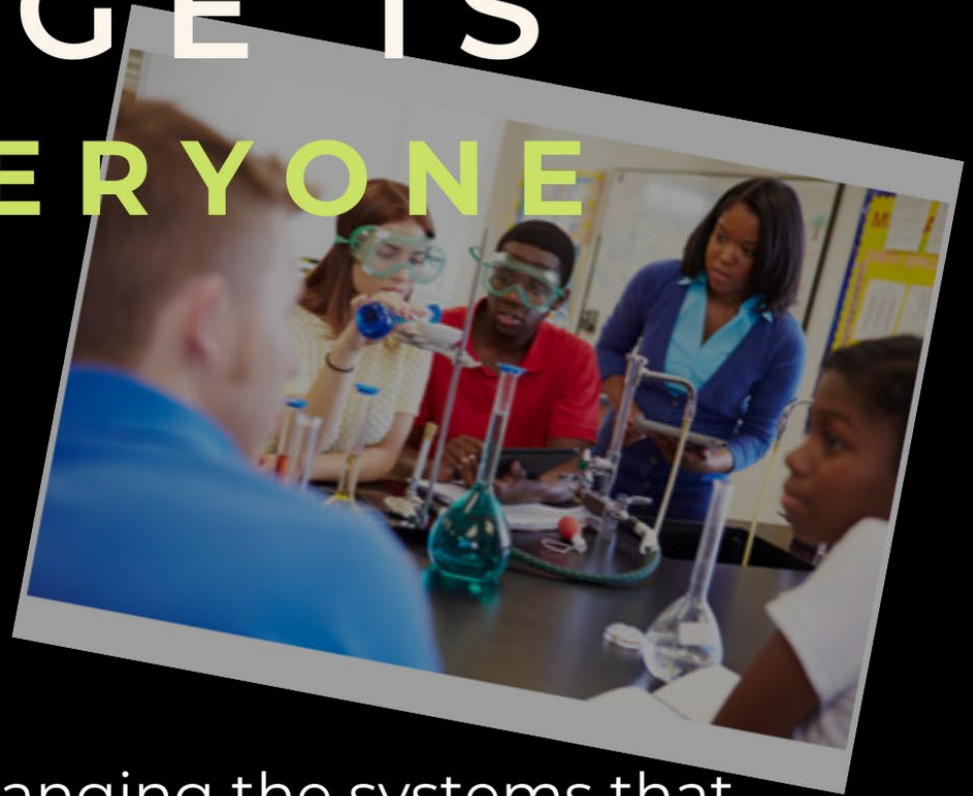
We use the term college to refer to attainment of education beyond high school, including postsecondary certificates and academic degrees.

COLLEGE IS A NECESSITY

Postsecondary attainment dramatically increases an individual's economic independence in a knowledge-based economy.



COLLEGE IS FOR EVERYONE



We work toward changing the systems that
perpetuate inequities in
postsecondary attainment.



COLLEGE IS A PUBLIC GOOD

Postsecondary attainment is critical to a just and equitable society, strong economy, thriving democracy, and healthy communities.

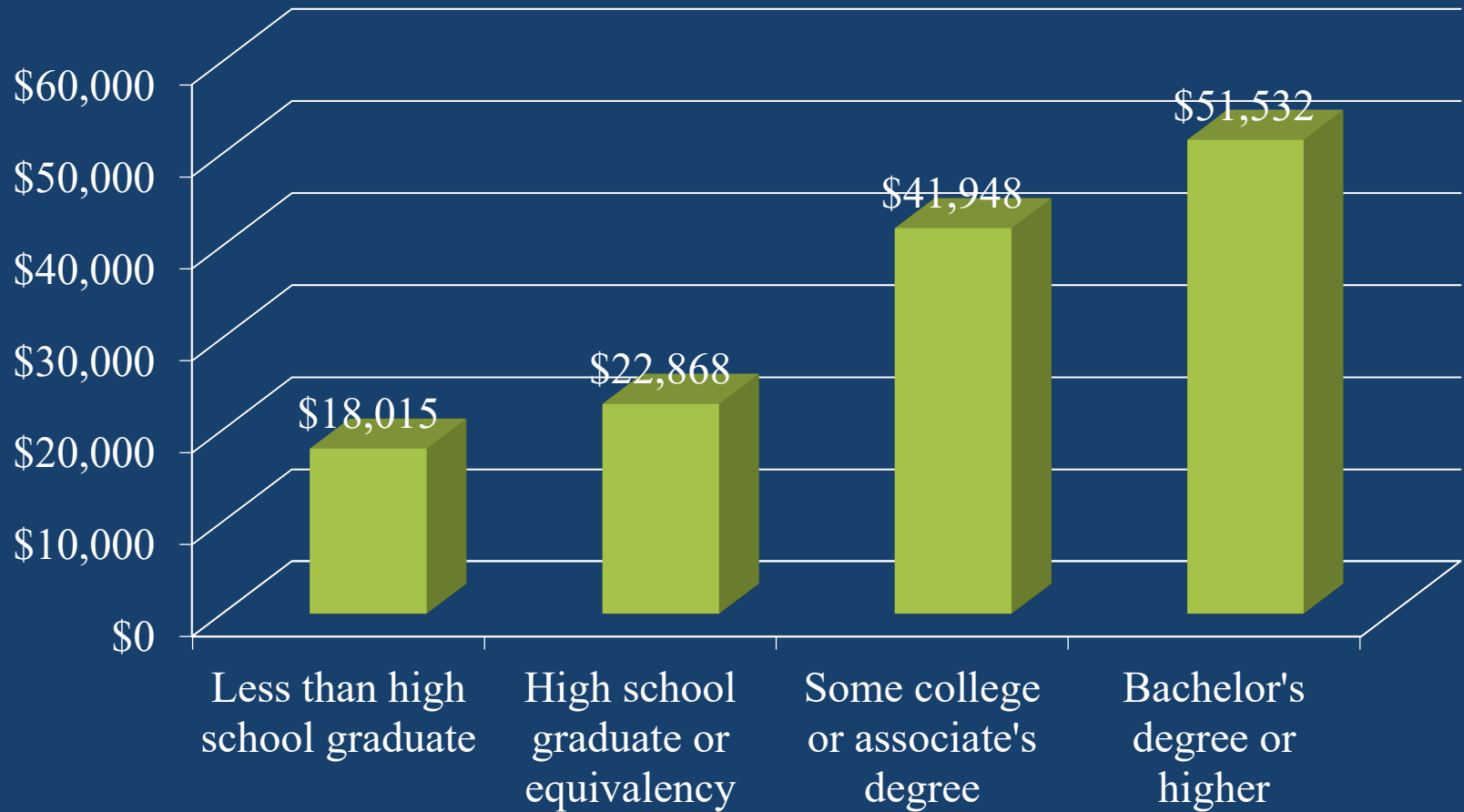
Increase the percentage of
Michigan residents with degrees
or postsecondary certificates to
60 percent by 2030



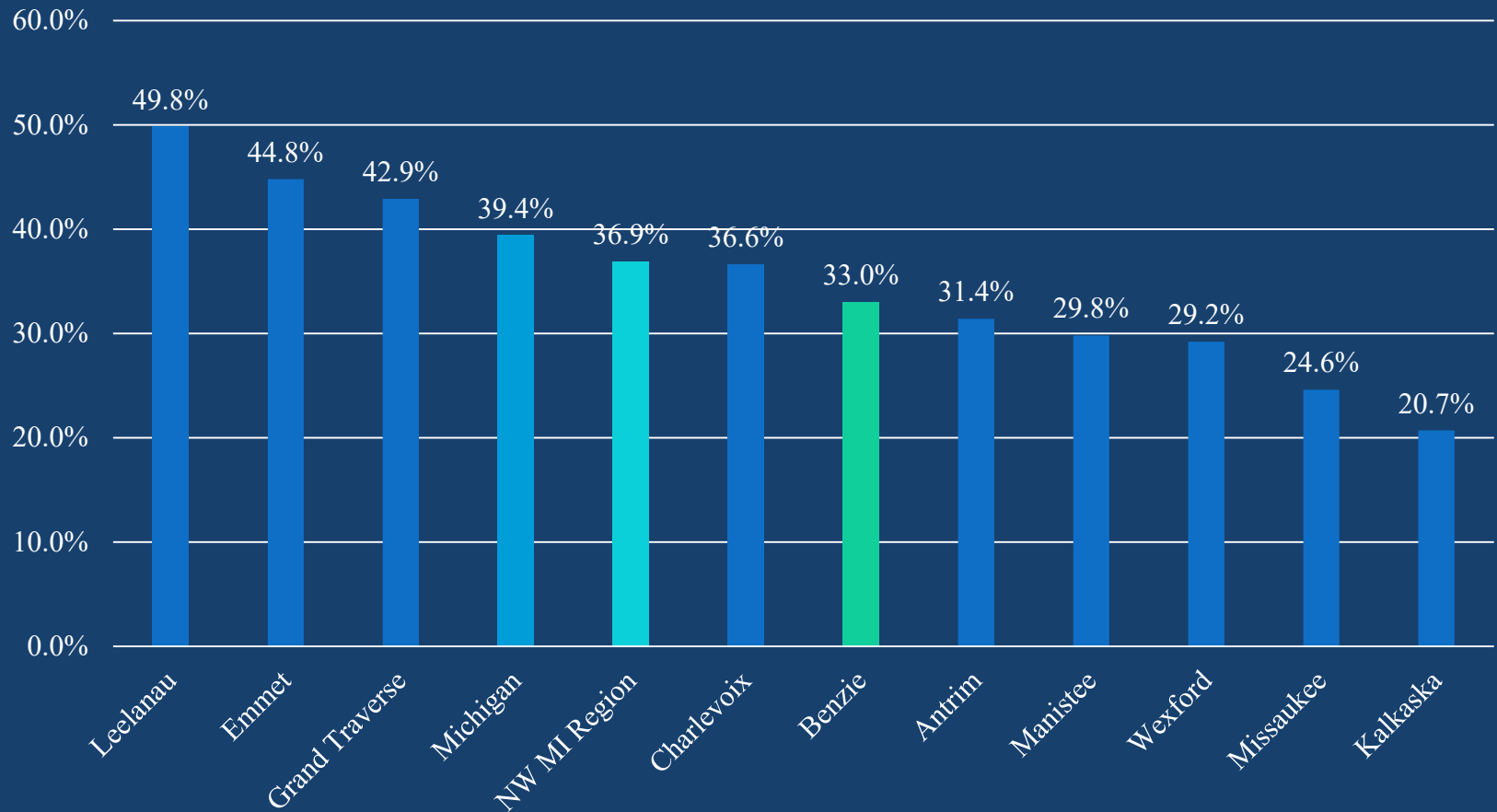
Urgency for Change: Data for Benzie County

(Why now?)

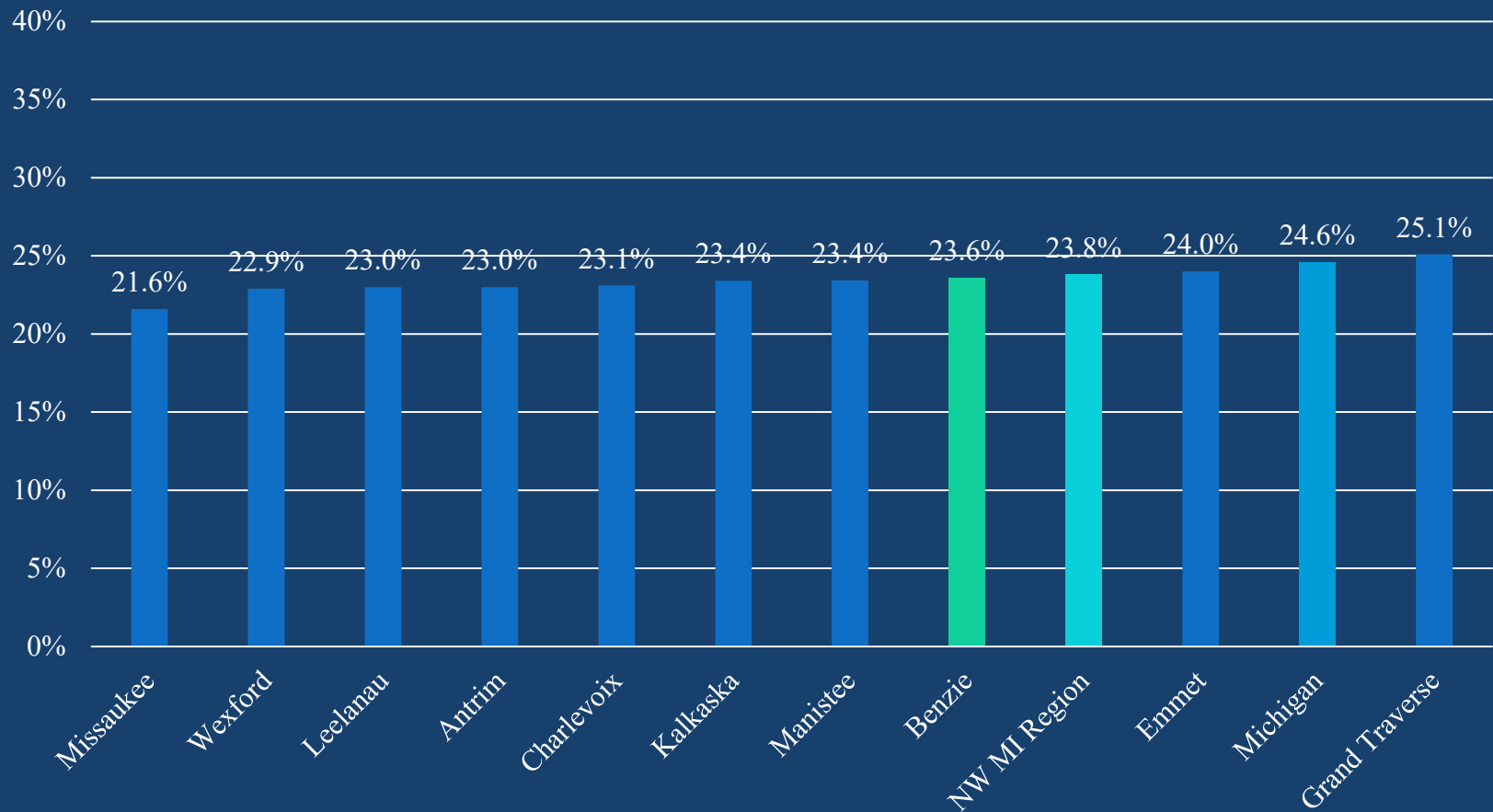
2018 Benzie County Median Earnings, by Educational Attainment



Degree (AA+) Attainment by County

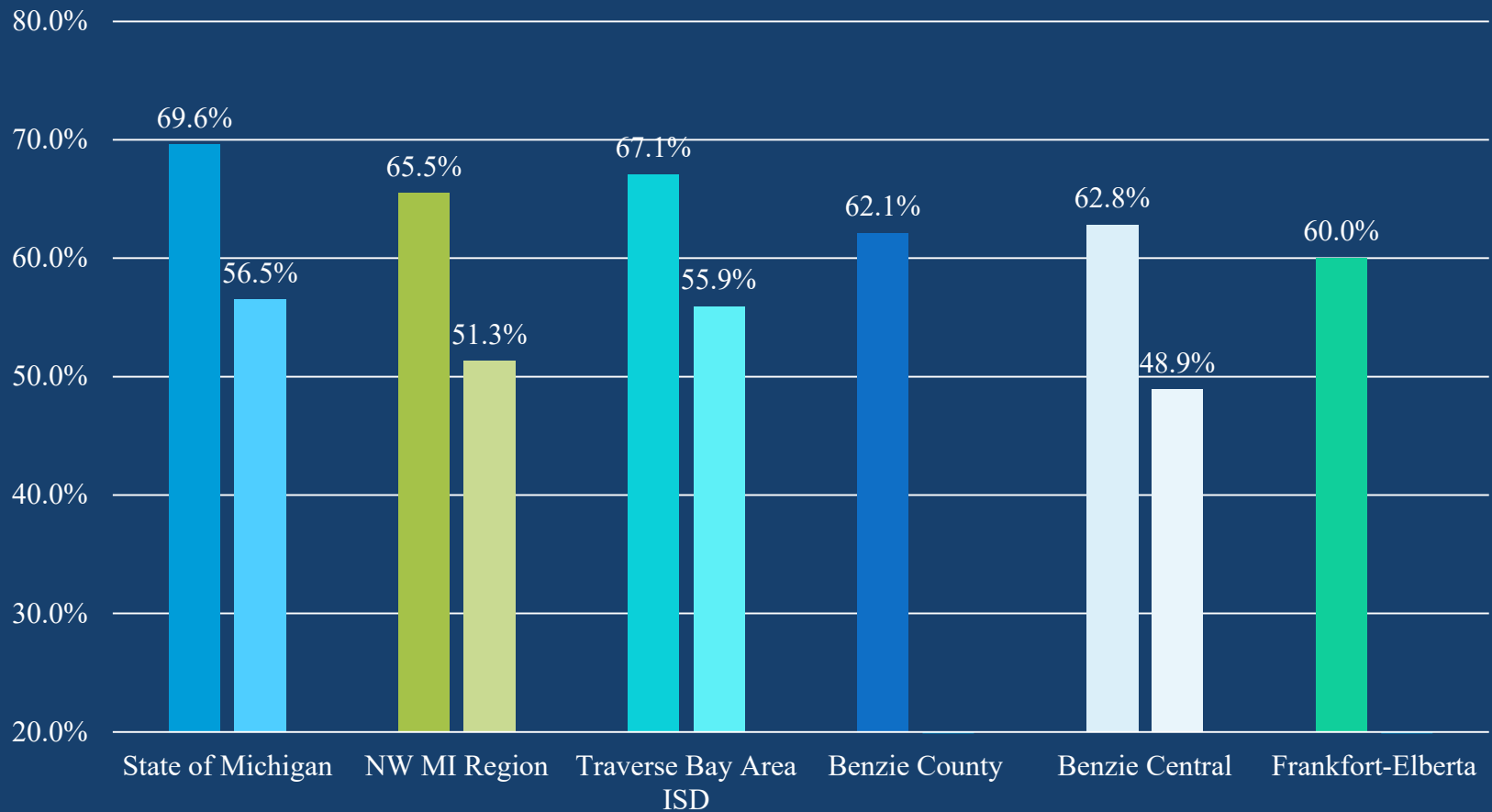


% of Adult Population with Some College, No Degree



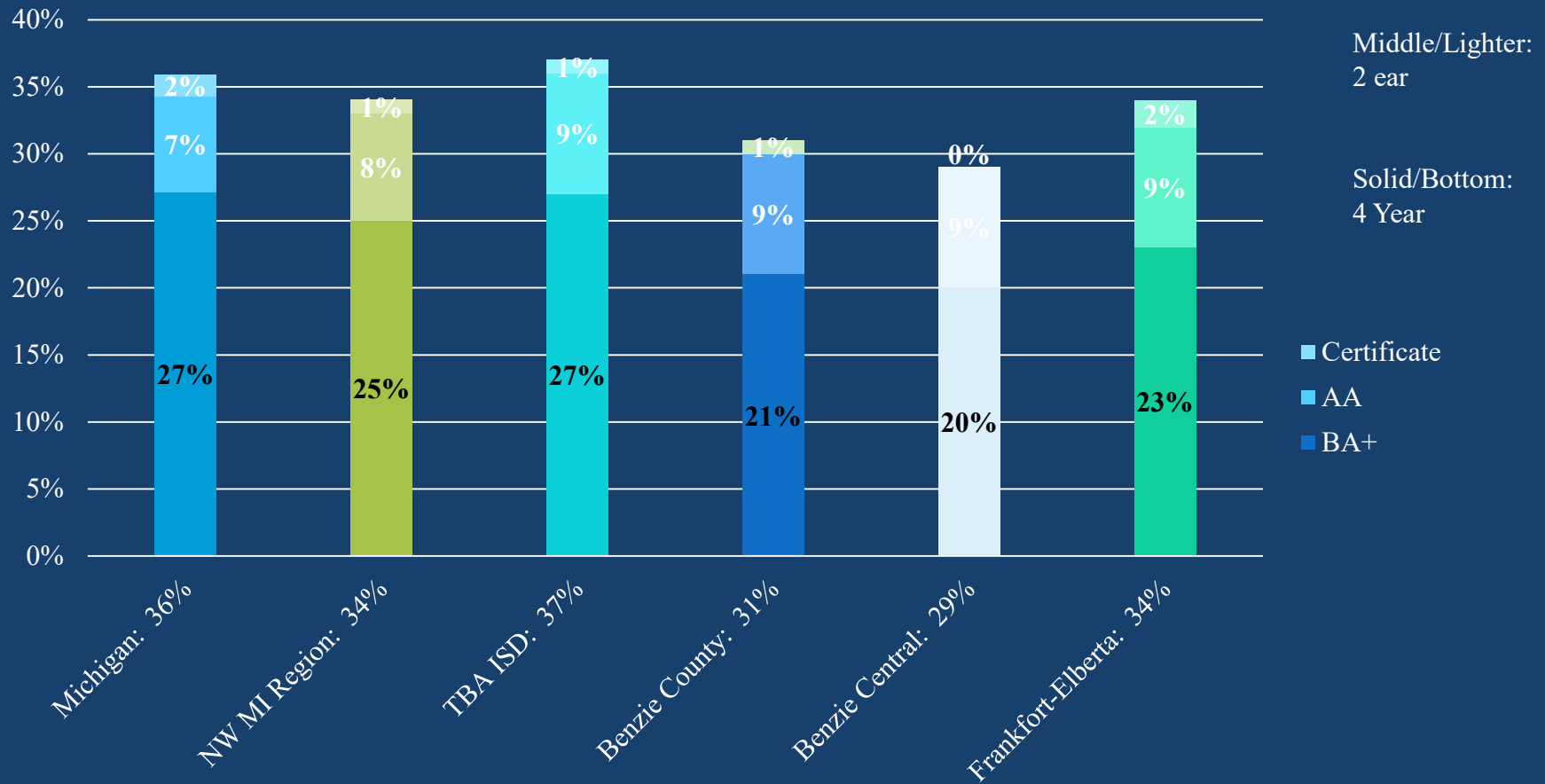
Class of 2018 College Enrollment Rate

All Students vs Economically Disadvantaged Students



Class of 2015

Credential Completion Rate - 6 years



LCANs: Network vs. Program

- **Coordinate** the programs, services and resources in the community to lessen barriers college access and success vs. create new programs, services and resources
- **Integrate** initiatives at the community level among service providers vs. isolated and disconnected programming

LCANs: Network vs. Program

- **Increase effectiveness** and efficiency of current assets vs. prompting competition between providers
- **Decrease** gaps and duplication in services vs. no coordination of efforts and populations served.
- **Leverage** new resources vs. diffusing current resources

Who is BEST Benzie County? Leadership Team



- CEO/Executive Director level
 - Decision making authority
 - Ability to align their organization in support of common agenda
- Cross sector of organizations essential for improving postsecondary access and success outcomes
 - K-12 Education
 - Higher Education
 - Nonprofit Organizations
 - Philanthropy
 - Business
 - Government
- Organizations that serve low-income, first-generation

Their initial work:

- **Compile** an Asset Map that address the five barriers
 - Programs in schools
 - Community programs
- **Create** a Dashboard or Community Report Card with key metrics. For example:
 - College Aspirations of Benzie County students
 - FAFSA Completion
 - College Enrollment/Persistence/Completion
 - Community Postsecondary Educational Attainment
- **Create** a Common Agenda
- **Identify** priority areas for action planning

Priority Areas and Action Teams

- Identified by Leadership Team
- Composed of people providing direct service
- Team meets monthly
- Develop or expand initiatives that will impact metrics



Our Action Teams

Action Team One

Priority area

- Financial Readiness
- College and Career Planning

Starting Data Points

Increase FAFSA completion rates and Increase the percentage of students enrolling in a postsecondary institution within 12 months of graduation

Action Team Two

Priority area

Increase the percentage of adults with a credential and/or degree (adult learners); coordinate opportunities and collaboration for this group

Working on the data points

Multiple Audiences

Accomplishments to date

- Implementation Grant from the Michigan College Access Network
- College Advisor integrated in both Benzie County High Schools through AdviseMI.
- County-wide FAFSA night
- College Weekend with local businesses
- Promotion of Future for Frontliners Program
- Completion Coach integrated at NMC

Lots of work ahead

- Website
- Email blast
- Career Fair (when COVID ends)
- Supporting/Promoting Rotary College Visits
- Project Reconnect
- Decision Day
- Summer Sizzle

Questions?

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