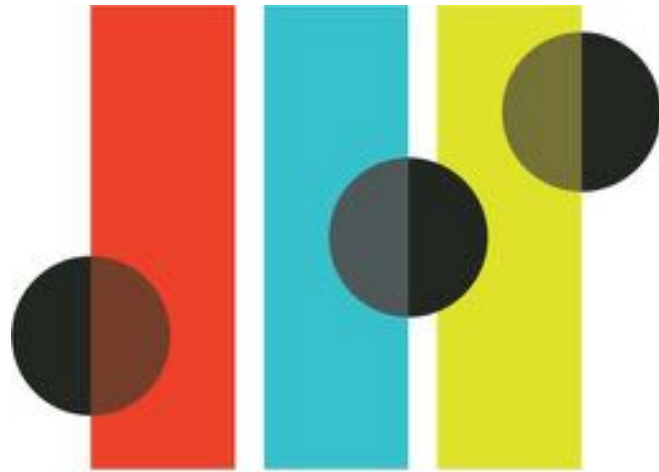


Lessons from a Decade of Policy Reform

Michael Collins

June 2019





JFF



Building a Future That Works

Vision

A society in which economic advancement is attainable for all.

Mission

JFF is building a society in which everyone has access to the skills, resources, and credentials needed to achieve economic advancement.

To reach that goal, we accelerate the alignment, transformation, and reimagination of the American workforce and education systems.





**POSTSECONDARY
STATE NETWORK**



JFF

A Sample of Initiatives

**STUDENT SUCCESS
CENTERS**

**BACK ON
TRACK**

**PERSISTENCE
PLUS**

**CENTER FOR APPRENTICESHIP
& WORK-BASED LEARNING**

**GROW WITH
GOOGLE**

**EARLY COLLEGE
TAACCCT**

**PATHWAYS TO
PROSPERITY**

**OPPORTUNITY
WORKS**

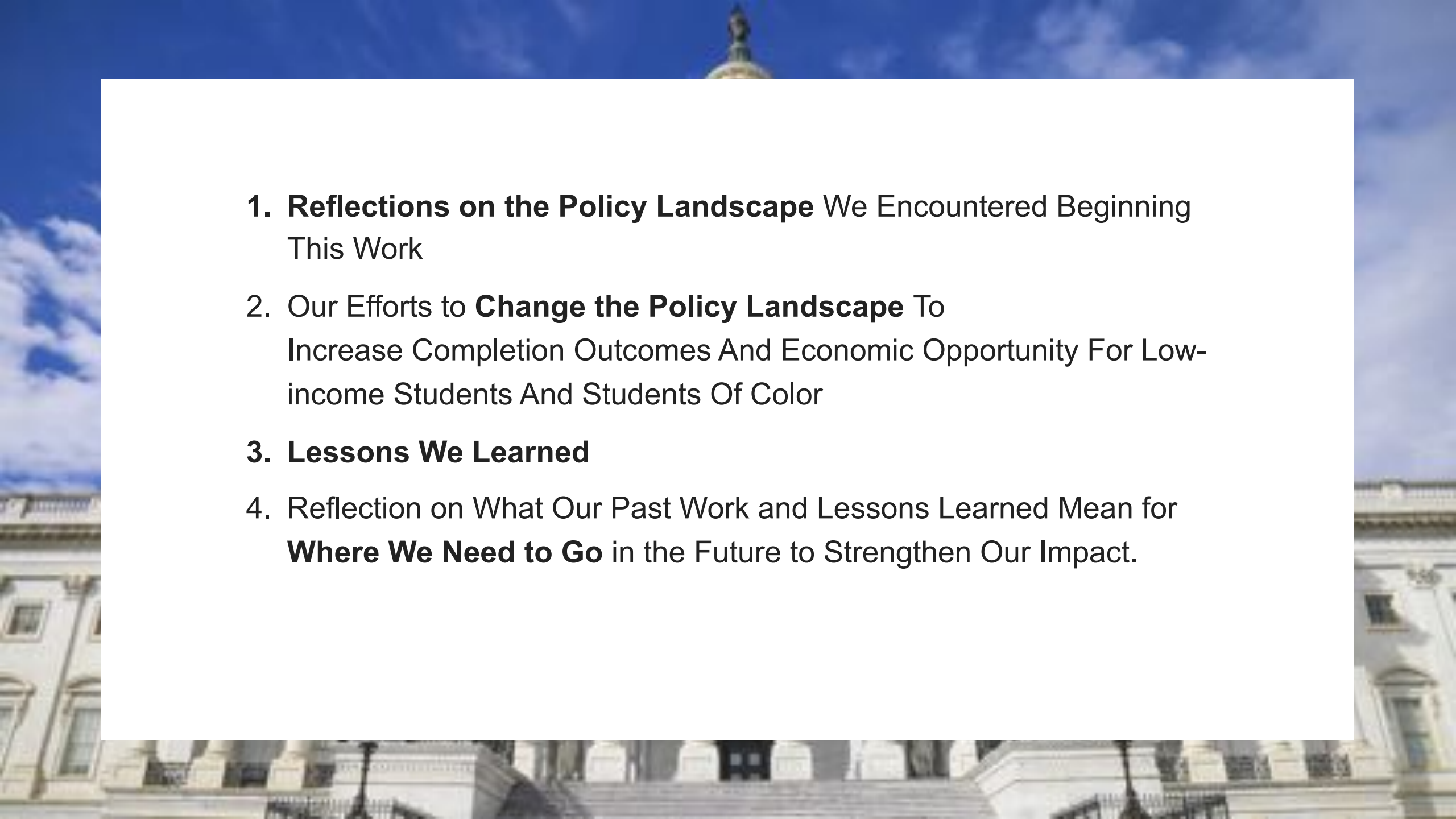
JFFLABS



JFF

A Sample of Partners



- 
1. **Reflections on the Policy Landscape** We Encountered Beginning This Work
 2. Our Efforts to **Change the Policy Landscape** To Increase Completion Outcomes And Economic Opportunity For Low-income Students And Students Of Color
 3. **Lessons We Learned**
 4. Reflection on What Our Past Work and Lessons Learned Mean for **Where We Need to Go** in the Future to Strengthen Our Impact.

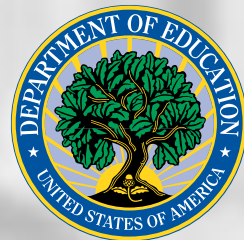


LEADING UP TO

2008



The Spellings Commission on the Future of Higher Education



Risk Factors

- **Lack of alignment** across the K-12 and postsecondary systems
- Rapidly **escalating college cost**
- **Complexity** of our financial aid system
- **Inability to assess** educational quality
- **Dramatic gaps in attainment** between white students and students of color



The Spellings Commission



The Higher Education Act



The Spellings Commission



The Higher Education Act



The Obama Administration



The Obama Administration

**20 million
more college graduates
by 2020**



Post-Secondary Attainment





Lumina™
FOUNDATION



BILL &
MELINDA
GATES
foundation





**POSTSECONDARY
STATE NETWORK**





**POSTSECONDARY
STATE NETWORK**

Challenges:

<10% 3-year
graduation rate

29% 6-year
graduation rate

- **Insufficient support** for students to navigate all the course and program options
- **Separate operation** for academic and student services
- **Few meaningful connections** to other sectors, such as K-12, 4-year institutions, business and industry, and employers



**Policy as a Lever
for Transformation**

A photograph of two business professionals, a man and a woman, sitting at a desk in a meeting room. They are looking at a laptop screen. The image is overlaid with semi-transparent data visualizations: a bar chart with stacked bars in blue, red, and yellow, and a line graph with a purple line and pink dots. The word "Accountability" is written in large, white, bold letters across the center of the image.

Accountability

A person is lying on their back on a wooden floor, with a stack of several books resting on their chest. The person's arms are extended to the sides, and their legs are also extended. The scene is dimly lit, with a soft glow from the books. The text "College Readiness" is overlaid in the center of the image.

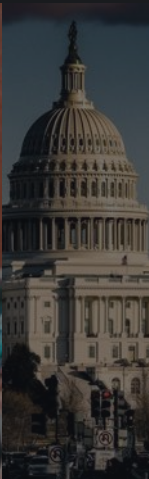
College Readiness

Guided Pathways

Institutional Policy Barriers

A young woman with long brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a green and white plaid shirt and a blue polka-dot backpack. She has white headphones around her neck and is holding two red folders. She is smiling and looking towards the right.

Close Attainment Gaps



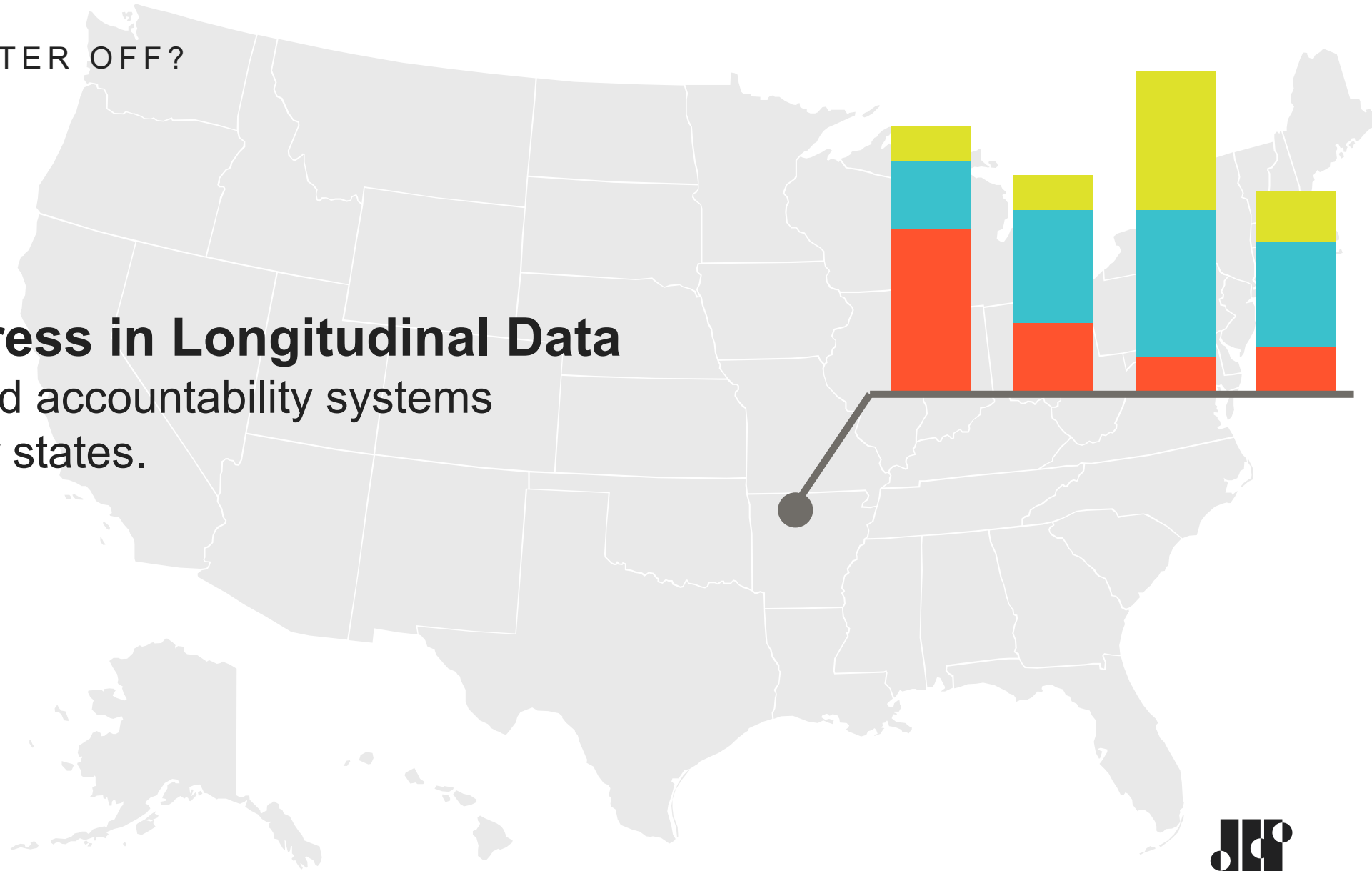
Is Anybody Better Off?

IS ANYBODY BETTER OFF?

The Wins

Progress in Longitudinal Data

and accountability systems
for states.

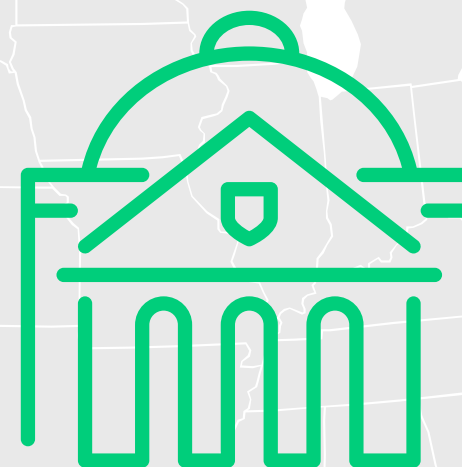


IS ANYBODY BETTER OFF?

The Wins

Active Policy Development

| from states around
college readiness





But, Is Anybody



Better Off?



IF PEOPLE WERE BETTER OFF, THIS IS

What We Would Expect to See

- **Dramatic increases** in completion
- **Closed attainment gaps** by race and ethnicity
- **Increased employment** and premiums in earnings as a result of credential attainment



In short, we would see evidence of **upward economic mobility** as a result of credential completion





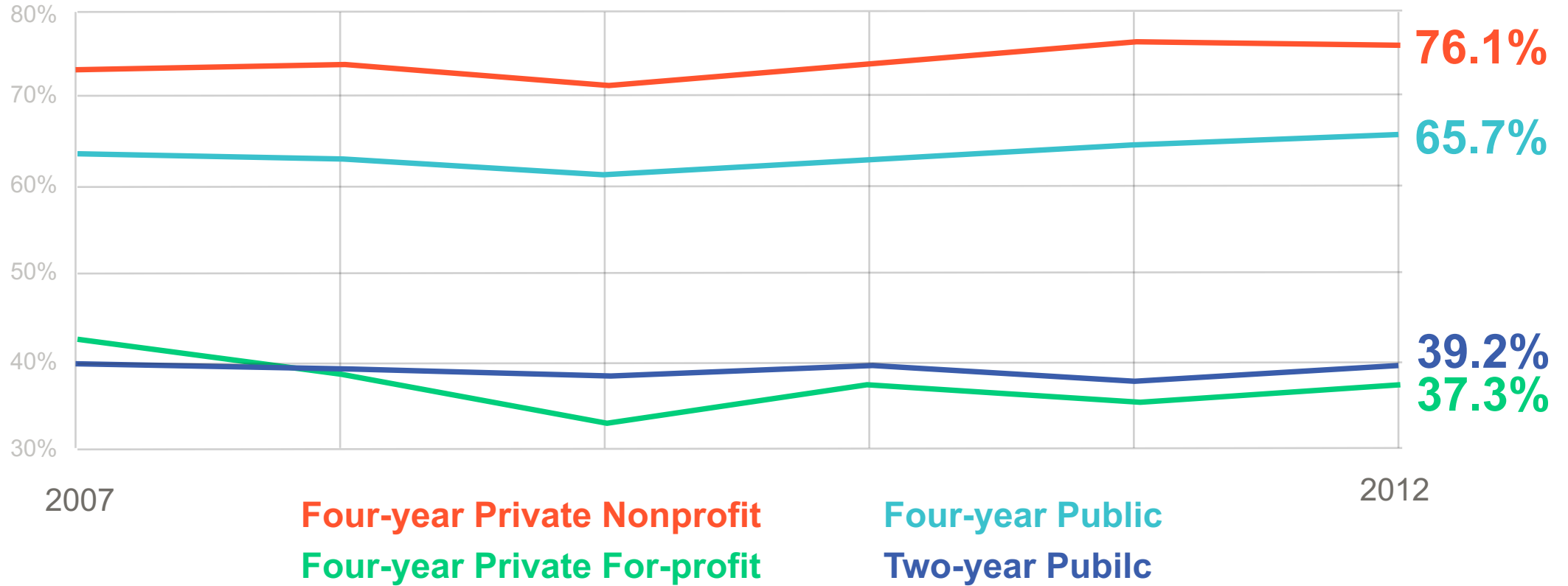
IN REALITY,

This Is Not What We Saw.

IN REALITY...

We Saw a Flat College Completion Rate

College Completion Rate



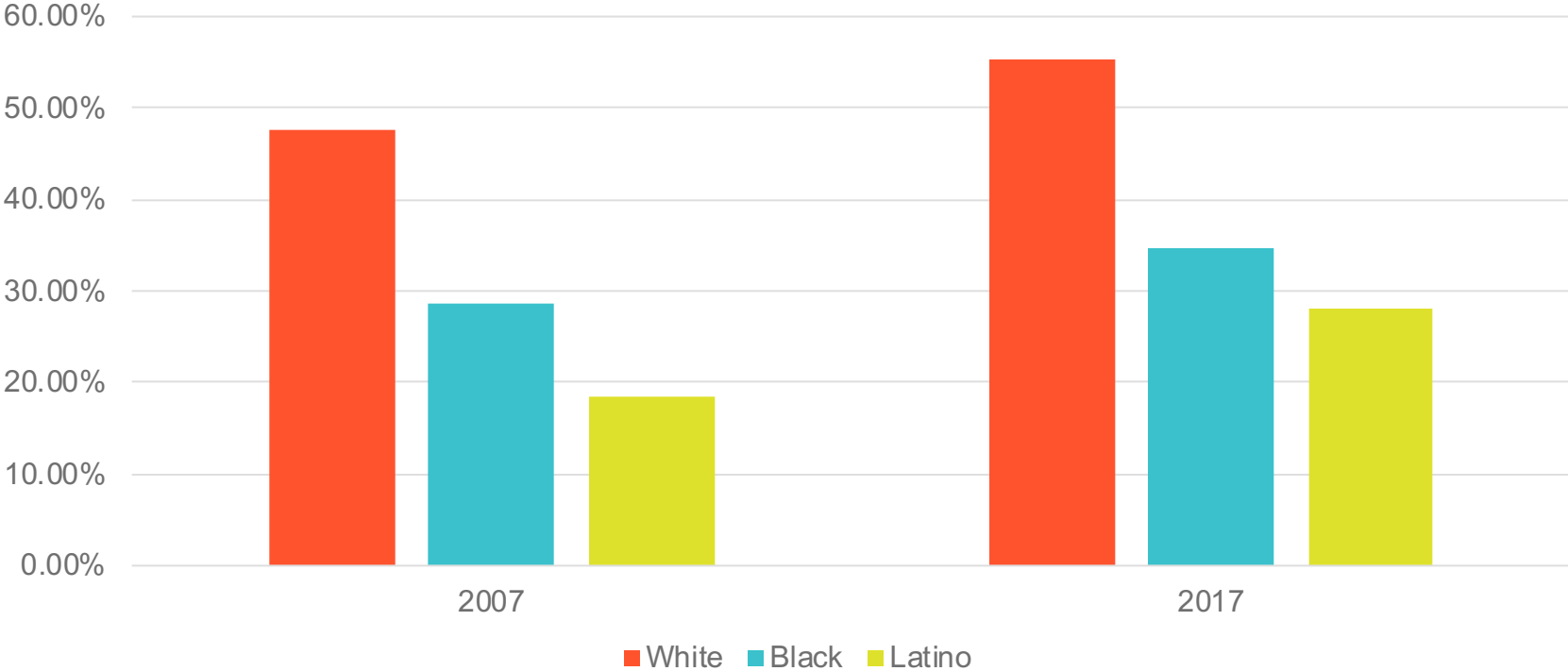
Data Source: National Student Clearinghouse



IN REALITY...

Attainment Gaps Persisting by Race and Ethnicity

The Share of Adults (age 25-34) Attaining Postsecondary Degrees (associate degree or above).



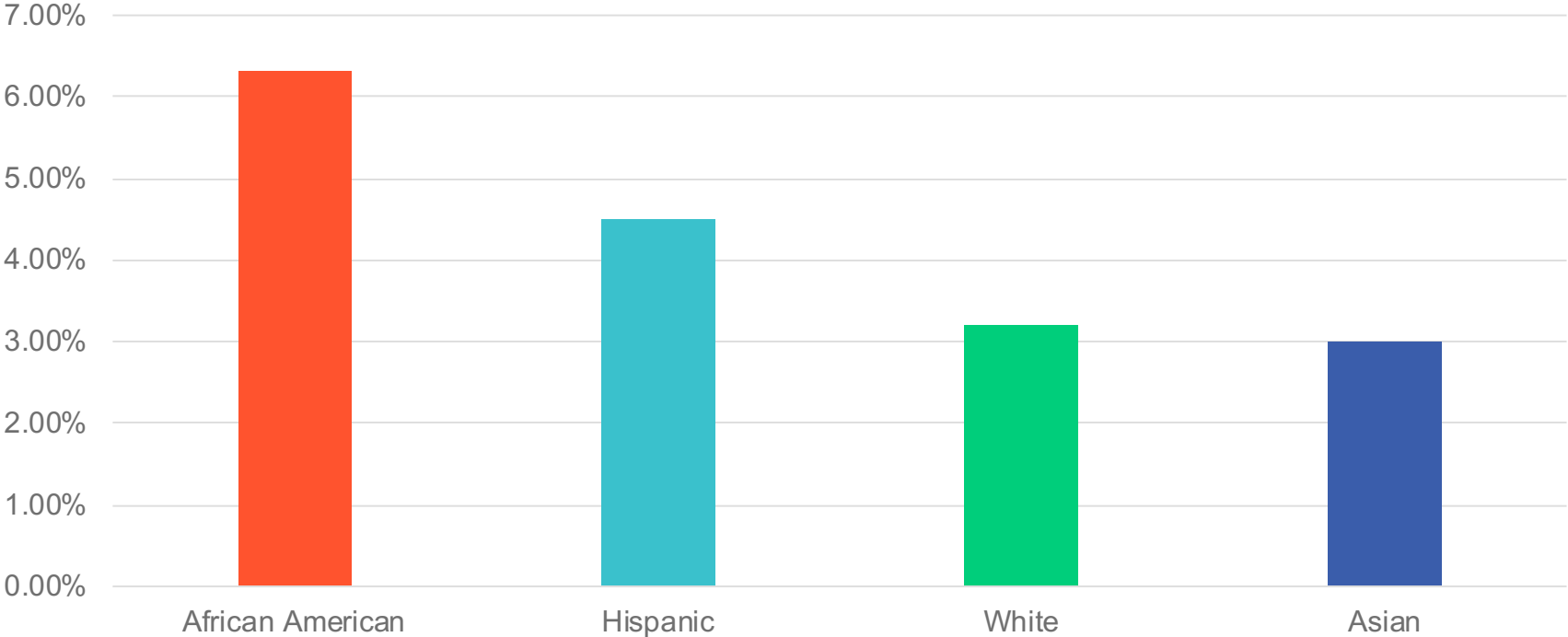
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Educational Attainment in the United States: 2017"



IN REALITY...


Continuing Unemployment and Under-employment of Students of Color

National Unemployment Rate: 2018



Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



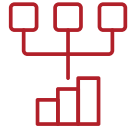
An American flag is shown waving in front of a classical building facade with columns. The image is dimly lit, and the text is overlaid in white.

**Policy only
partially lived up
to our hopes.**



How Can We Do Better?

- Where might we have been better at **anticipating developments?**
- Where might we have been **nimbler?**
- Where might we have been **bolder?**



Smart Postsecondary Policies That Work

for Students and the Economy



Smart Postsecondary Policies That Work

for Students and the Economy

**Talent Development Needs
of Regional and
State Economies**



**Efficient Pathways to
Postsecondary Credentials**



**Helping Students Reach
Their Potential**



Smart Postsecondary Policies That Work

for Students and the Economy

**Talent Development Needs
of Regional and
State Economies**



Smart Postsecondary Policies That Work

for Students and the Economy

Efficient Pathways to Postsecondary Credentials

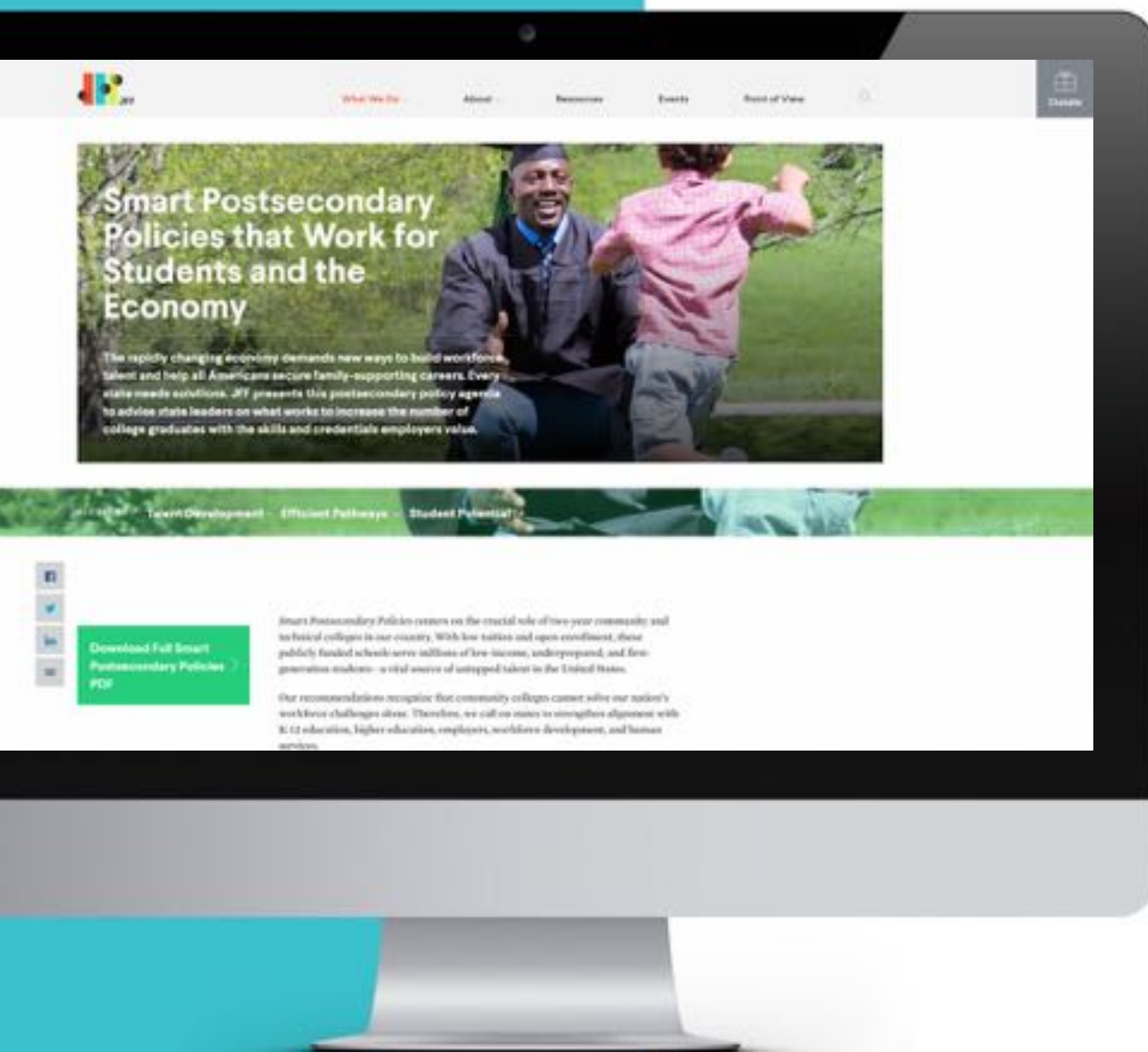


Smart Postsecondary Policies That Work

for Students and the Economy

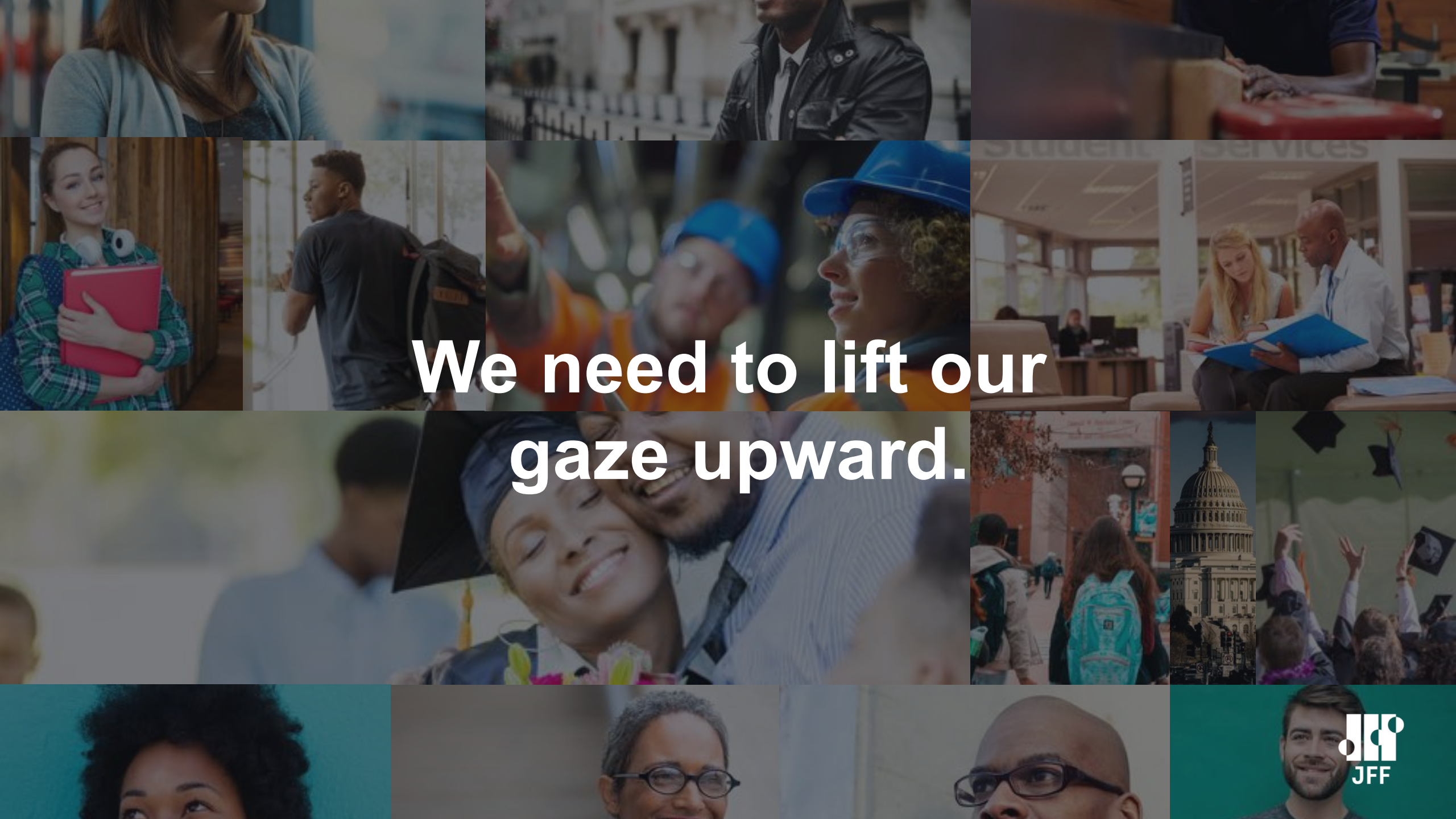
Helping Students Reach
Their Potential





Find out more information at **JFF.org**



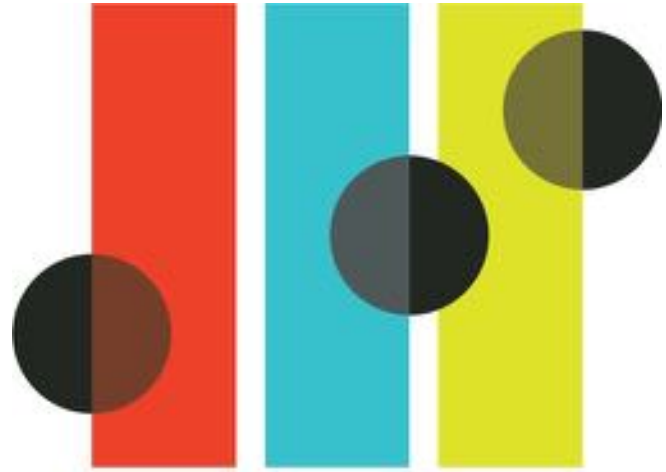


**We need to lift our
gaze upward.**





There is an **urgent need** to shift our focus from college completion to **completion of credentials with labor market value**



JFF

THANK YOU!

VISIT US TODAY AT JFF.ORG