



Degrees with Less Debt: *Effective Higher Education Strategies for Underrepresented Student Populations*





Project Organizations



St. Louis Graduates – Commissioned Study

- Network of K-12 and higher education leaders, college access/success non-profits, business and philanthropy
- Primary goal is to increase postsecondary degree attainment for low-income, first-generation, and students of color in the St. Louis region

Illinois Education Research Council, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville – Research Lead

- Education policy research organization
- Provides objective research evidence for P-20 education policy audiences in Illinois and throughout the region



Motivation— Labor Force Needs



BY 2020

2/3

OF JOBS

in Missouri and Illinois

**WILL REQUIRE
AN ASSOCIATE'S
DEGREE OR
HIGHER**



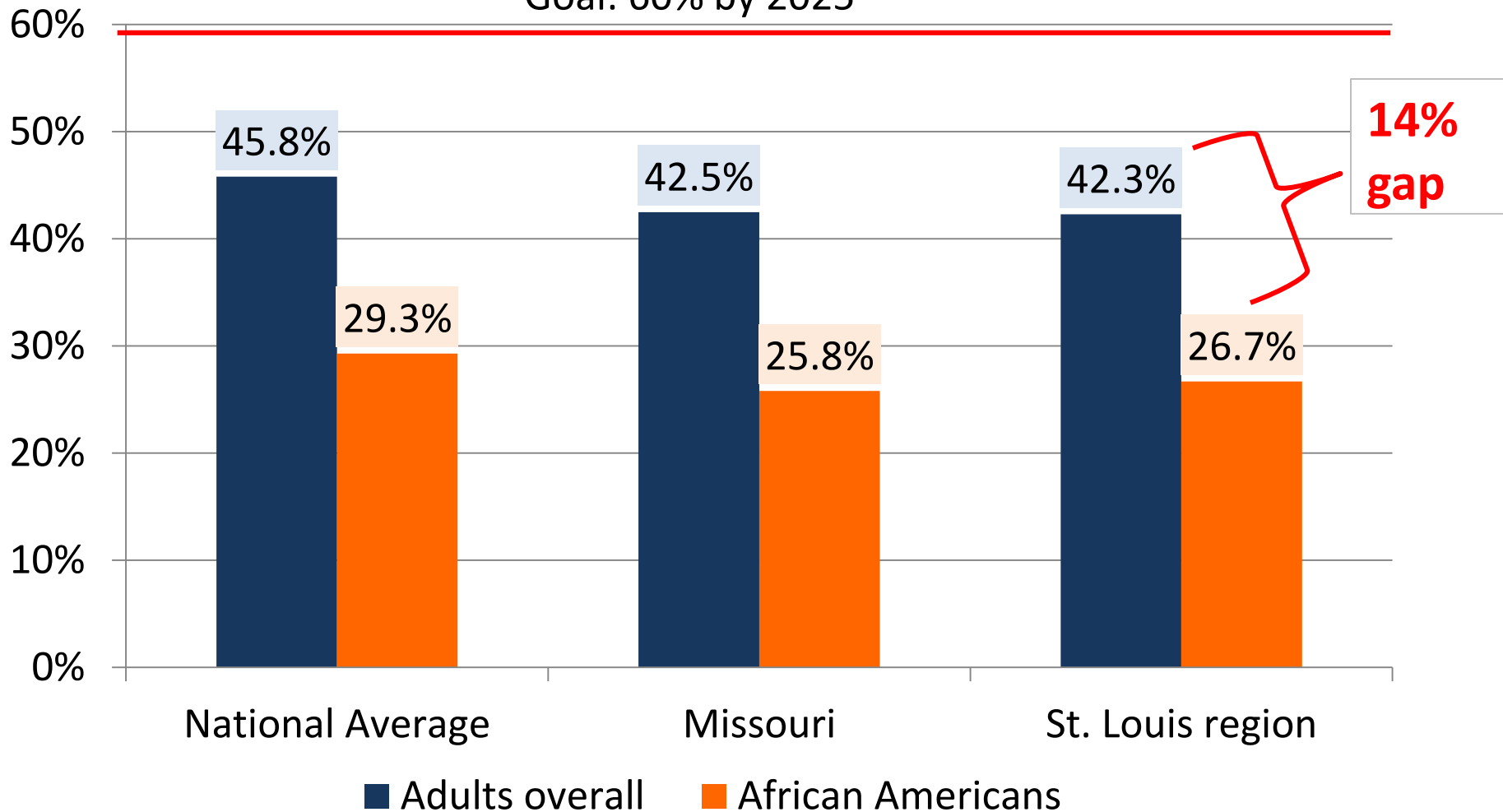
Source: https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Recovery2020.SR_Web_.pdf



Motivation – Degree Attainment Equity Gap



Goal: 60% by 2025

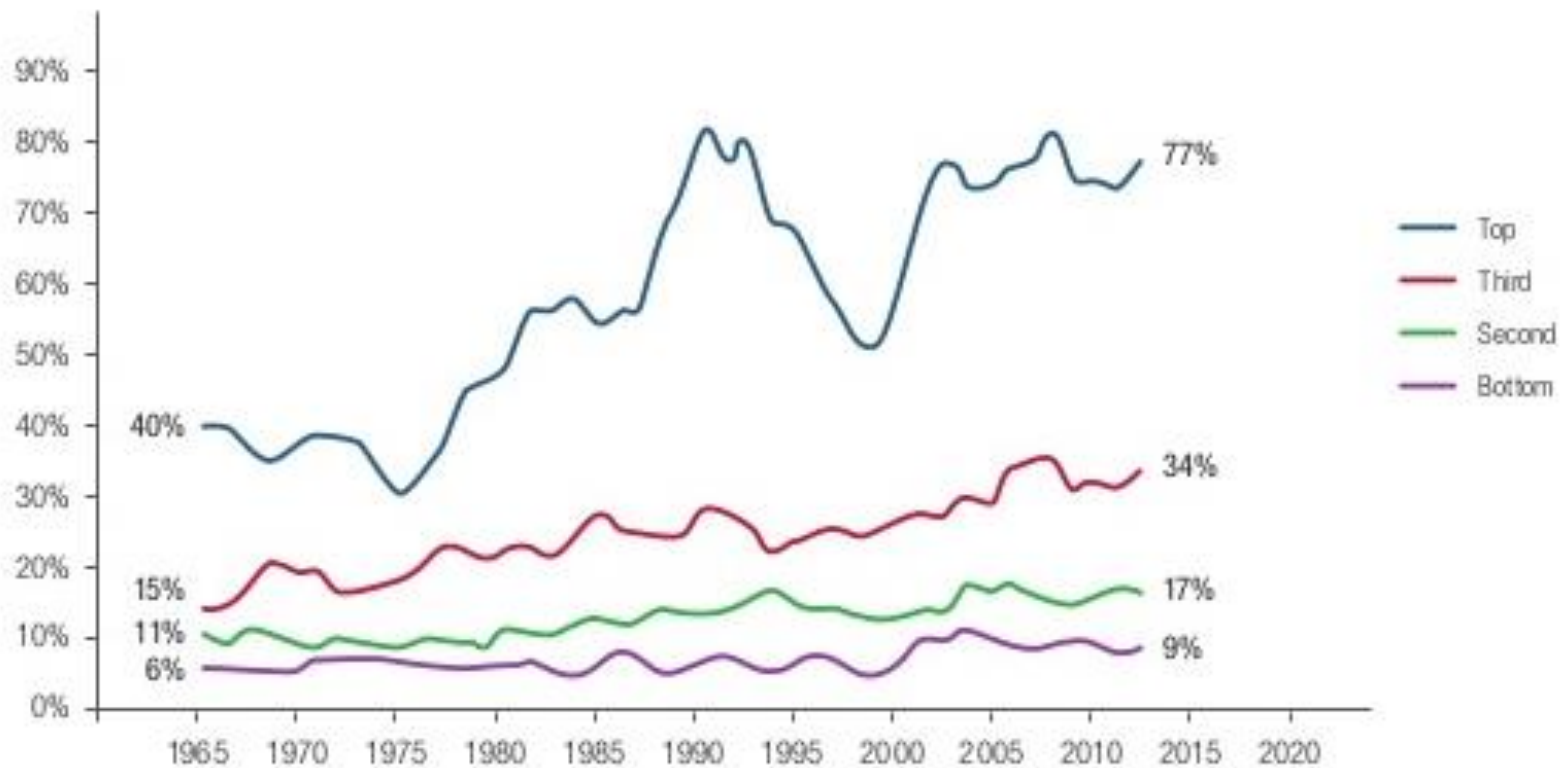




Motivation – Degree Attainment Equity Gap



Equity Indicator 5a: Bachelor's degree attainment by age 24 for dependent family members by family income quartile: 1970-2013

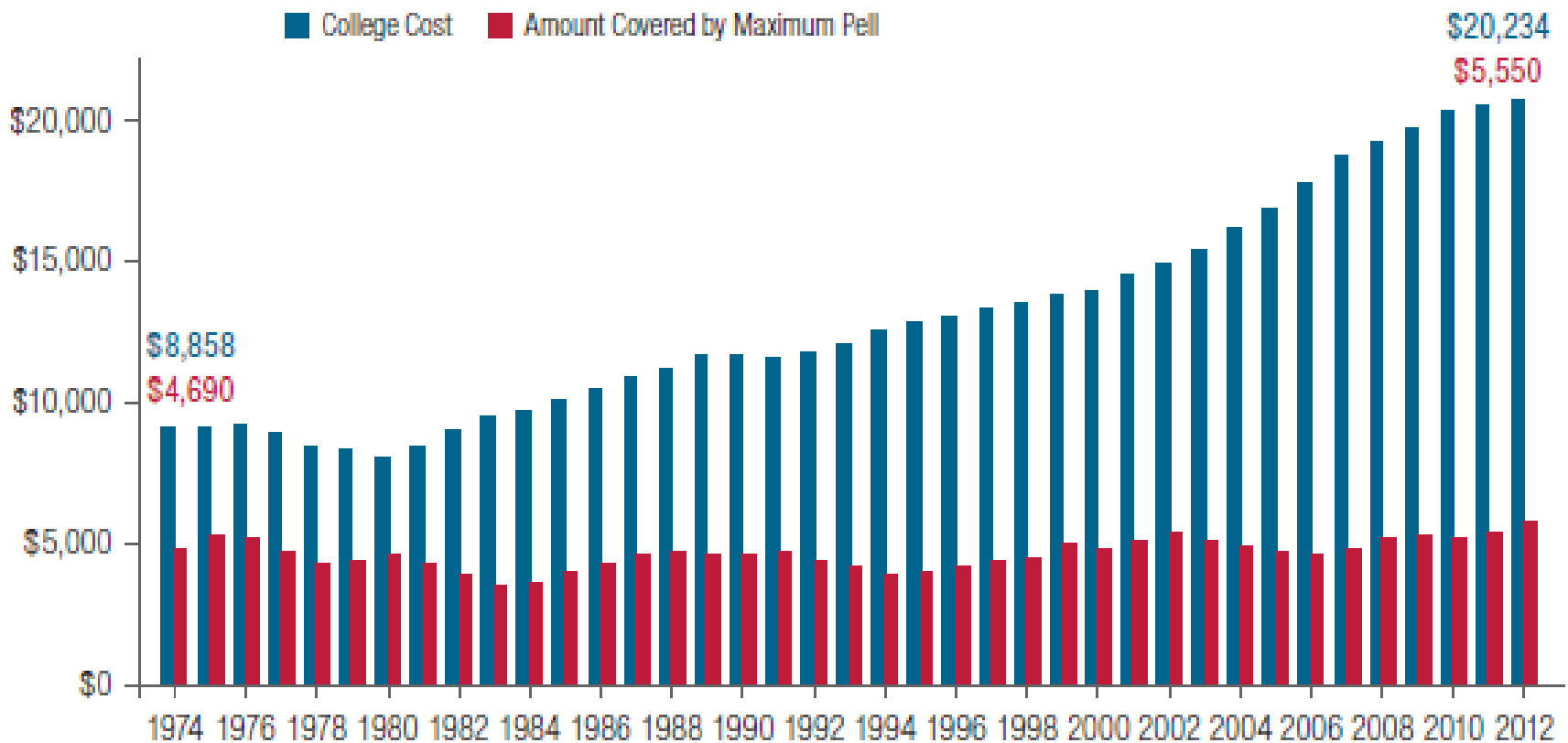




Motivation - Declining Buying Power of Pell Grant



Equity Indicator 3a (i): Average college cost and maximum Pell Grant award (in 2012 Constant Dollars): 1974-2012





Student debt now totals
\$1.4 TRILLION



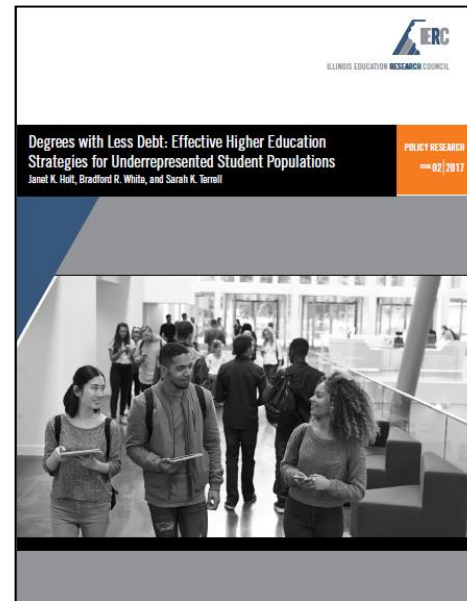
DEGREES WITH LESS DEBT



Effective Higher Education Strategies for Underrepresented Student Populations

Dr. Janet K. Holt

Professor Emeritus of Educational Leadership,
Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville





Purpose of Project



1. Identify higher education institutions that are most successful in supporting and graduating underrepresented students from St. Louis
2. Examine the programs, services, and strategies these institutions are using to graduate underrepresented students with less debt



Universities in the Study



- Fontbonne University
- Harris-Stowe State University
- Lincoln University
- Lindenwood University
- Maryville University
- McKendree University
- Missouri Baptist University
- Missouri State University
- Missouri S&T
- Saint Louis University
- Southeast Missouri State University
- Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
- Southern Illinois-Edwardsville
- Truman State University
- University of Central Missouri
- University of Missouri-Columbia
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- University of Missouri-St. Louis
- Washington University
- Webster University



Success Formula

- Ranking calculation based on predicted vs. actual 6-year graduation rates and median student loan debt at graduation

Minimal Thresholds:

- Institutions needed a minimum 6-year graduation rate of 50%
- At least 25% of the student body must be Pell Grant eligible



5 INSTITUTIONS EFFECTIVELY GRADUATING UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS WITH LESS DEBT





5 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



- University leadership
- Just-in-time academic support
- Flexible and sufficient financial aid
- Early college experiences
- Coordinated and caring community





University Leadership



- University commitment to college access and affordability
- Goal setting and strategy development for student success
- Professional development for faculty & staff in the areas of diversity and inclusion
- Intentional engagement with underrepresented students



Early College Experiences



- Summer Bridge Programs
- New Student Orientation Programs
- First-Year Experience Courses & Programming
- Learning Communities



Just-In-Time Academic Support



- Early Alert Systems & Learning Analytics
- Easy Access to Tutoring & Supplemental Instruction
- Co-requisite Remediation
- Guided Pathways to Success
- Mentoring Programs



Flexible & Sufficient Financial Aid



- Keeping Unmet Need Low for Financially At-Risk students
- Providing Need-Based Aid to Supplement the Pell Grant
- Offering Flexible Aid to Adapt to Changing Student Circumstances
- Financial Literacy and Knowledge of Financial Resources



Coordinated & Caring Communities



- Providing a “Family” atmosphere
- Caring Means Believing in Students
- Wrap-Around Support Services
- Coordination of Care



PANELISTS



MODERATOR:

Laura Winter Project Director, St. Louis Graduates

PANELISTS:

Trent Ball Associate Dean of Supports and Director of Student Retention, Southeast Missouri State University

Dr. Rachelle Darabi Associate Provost for Student Development and Public Affairs, Missouri State University

Maxwell Artis Life Coach, Maryville University

Ken Schueller Director of Student Success, University of Central Missouri

Terri Reilly Adjunct Professor, Webster University



Contact Us



Laura Winter

St. Louis Graduates Project Director
laura@stlouisgraduates.org

Janet Holt, Ph.D.

Former Director of the Illinois
Education Research Council and
Professor Emeritus, SIUE
janholt@siue.edu

