



# TRANSITION POINTS

The Education Strategy Group Newsletter

## A Note on COVID-19

As we send out this update, we find ourselves in the midst of an unprecedented global health crisis. Our collective efforts to contain the coronavirus have closed K-12 schools and colleges, canceled travel, postponed events, and challenged all of us to make significant sacrifices for the greater good. Our team at ESG is committed to doing all we can to support our partners in the field who are on the front lines of supporting youth and adults during these difficult times. We understand that priorities are quickly changing. As a virtual firm, we are prepared to help in any way that we can as you adjust your plans to address the rapidly changing environment. We will do our part. We are in this together.

## NEW: ESG Joins JPMorgan Chase's Global Career Readiness Initiative

ESG is proud to be a partner in JPMorgan Chase's Global Career Readiness Initiative, which officially launched in Denver in February. As part of its New Skills at Work commitment to prepare adults and youth for the future of work, JPMorgan Chase is investing in sites across the globe to advance smarter policy solutions that better prepare young people for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Here in the U.S., JPMorgan Chase has selected a cohort of cities that are committed to working in partnership with their states to scale access to high-quality pathways that lead to careers in high-demand, high-wage industries, with a particular emphasis on traditionally underserved students. Over the next five years, ESG, together with our partners at Advance CTE, will support partnerships of local school systems, higher education institutions, employers, and government entities in these sites as they accelerate their work. We will provide support to their local efforts while convening a community of practice across the sites to help them learn from and collaborate with each other.



## STATE SPOTLIGHT: Louisiana Task Force Backs Statewide Expansion of Dual Enrollment

In Louisiana, as in many areas of the country, high school students' participation in dual enrollment and other early postsecondary opportunities varies greatly by race/ethnicity, income status, and location. To ensure every student graduates high school having earned academic or technical college credit or credential of value, Commissioner of Higher Education Kim Hunter Reed worked closely with K-12 Superintendent John White to convene a Dual Enrollment Task Force. ESG is proud to have supported this effort, helping the task force develop an ambitious set of recommendations to meaningfully move the needle on early postsecondary opportunities



LOUISIANA  
**DUAL ENROLLMENT**  
*Task Force Report*

Submitted to the Louisiana State Legislature  
 February 2020

in Louisiana. The Task Force **released a report** articulating eight guiding principles to anchor the state's efforts and additional findings and recommendations on topics such as: universal access and equity; funding mechanisms; course access and pathways; instructor support and program integrity; and communication, outreach, and public reporting. The principles directly connect to the Level Up coalition's recent report to advance equity and access in college in high school programs.

## NEW INITIATIVE: Detroit Drives Degrees

In January, ESG kicked off work to support Detroit Drives Degrees (D3), an initiative of the Detroit Regional Chamber that aims to increase the number of individuals with a postsecondary degree or credential to 60 percent by 2030. The Detroit effort is being led by an impressive leadership council made up of top institutional, business, civic, and philanthropic leaders whose collective weight has the potential to transform the region's approach to aligning the education and workforce agendas. ESG is supporting these efforts through the development of a strategic plan and the facilitation of broader stakeholder engagement to ensure understanding and buy-in across the region. Each K-12 and postsecondary institution in the region, as well as a number of regional philanthropies and employers, is also committing to developing its own plan for increasing attainment and contributing its share of the larger regional goal. Last year, state leaders in Michigan announced a statewide attainment goal and are watching the Detroit initiative closely, hoping it can become a model for other regions.



## One Year Later: myFutureNC Celebrates its 2 Million by 2030 Goal



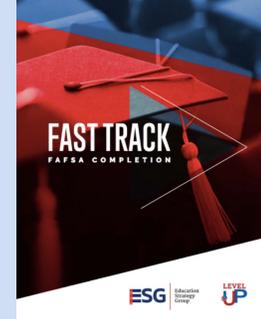
postsecondary attainment rate

On February 10, myFutureNC celebrated one year of work and progress since establishing its 2 million by 2030 postsecondary attainment goal in 2019. At the event, myFutureNC also released its new attainment dashboard, which tracks progress on key indicators and transition points along the attainment continuum, as well as county profiles and other resources developed with ESG strategic support. myFutureNC now turns its efforts toward state system alignment and coordination, continued stakeholder engagement, and implementing strategies to increase the state's

## ICYMI: Fast Track FAFSA Completion

In January, ESG released a new report - Fast Track FAFSA Completion -

which offers a series of recommendations for states and local communities as they work to increase students' completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students who complete the FAFSA are more likely to enroll in higher education, persist in their college coursework, and obtain a degree. And yet far too many students each year, especially low-income and first-generation students, fail to complete the form. Check out the roadmap to guide state efforts [here](#), and stay tuned for a forthcoming series of case studies highlighting effective practices in action in local communities.



## ESG HIGHLIGHTS: Meet Our New Staff



### **Brett Visger, Director**

Brett joins the ESG team to lead its efforts to increase attainment of meaningful postsecondary credentials that have value in the workplace. Brett has over 30 years of experience in promoting student success. Before joining ESG, Brett served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Collaboration and Completion for the Ohio Department of Higher Education, where he developed strategies to help institutions improve completion rates, operate more systemically, and implement approaches that led to more adult students earning credentials. He has also worked as an independent consultant on a wide variety of education and workforce alignment initiatives, and previously served as Vice President, College & Career Access at KnowledgeWorks Foundation. To learn more about [Brett](#) and his work supporting ESG's [Postsecondary Attainment portfolio](#), visit our [website](#).

### **Kelly Van Beveren, Senior Associate**

Kelly joins ESG to lead the organization's communications efforts around its work and priority issues. Prior to joining ESG, Kelly spent nearly six years leading communications and outreach efforts for Achieve; in that role, she developed the organization's communications strategy and executed national and targeted campaigns to promote Achieve's work around raising academic standards and graduation requirements, improving assessment systems, and strengthening accountability. Before her time at Achieve, Kelly worked on the Communications and Outreach team at the U.S Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid and also worked on short-term projects with large urban school districts as a graduate student at Cornell University. To learn more about [Kelly](#), visit our [website](#).



## ESG is Hiring

We are looking for talented professionals who are committed to achieving impact in communities across the country. [Come work with us.](#)



*Education Strategy Group is a mission-driven consulting firm that works with K-12, higher education, and workforce leaders to achieve greater impact. We work across sectors and across the aisle to move the needle on issues that are critical to improving student success.*

