



New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission

Dennis M. Bone, *Chairman*

Chris Christie, *Governor*

POLICY RESOLUTION: SETC #2017-01

SUBJECT: New Jersey Credential Attainment Goal, *65 by 25 Initiative*

Purpose

The New Jersey Combined State Plan for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), 2016, focused on two critical goals - building an innovative skilled workforce to power economic growth and building economic opportunity for all New Jersey residents. The State Plan outlined a mission: *New Jersey will increase the number of residents with an industry-valued credential or degree through high quality partnerships and integrated investments.* **To support this effort, the State Employment and Training Commission endorses the creation of a statewide credential attainment goal, that 65 percent of the State's adult population, with a special focus on race and gender equity, complete education beyond high school by the year 2025, the *65 by 25 Initiative*.**

Background

In September 2016, the SETC formed a Career Pathways Task Force, to continue the Policy Academy partnership of Education, Higher Education, Labor and Workforce Development, and Business. These agencies have worked together in unprecedented ways to align resources and programs in support of career pathways and talent development in New Jersey.

In 2015, 48 percent of New Jersey's workforce had earned an associate's degree or higher and 13 percent had some college but no degree; the State's Governor's Higher Education Council in its 2015 report, *Strategic Priorities for New Jersey Higher Education*, recommended that 65% of New Jersey's workforce attain a post-secondary degree or certificate by 2025.

The SETC Career Pathways Task Force recognizes that credential attainment is an integral component and building block of a career pathway system. In order for New Jersey to remain competitive in a global economy, there is a critical need to focus workforce and education efforts on the attainment of credentials by our students and workers, which supports their individual growth and economic success. New Jersey will encourage students and job seekers to complete an associate or baccalaureate degree or a credential through the ***65 by 25 Initiative***.

RESOLUTION: The SETC calls upon New Jersey's workforce development system, high schools, training providers, higher education institutions, organized labor and the business community, to work collaboratively to increase the number of degrees or credentials attained by New Jersey's workforce, so that 65 percent of the state's adult population, with a special focus on race and gender equity, will have completed a post-secondary degree or credential beyond high school by the year 2025.

Commission Approval: February 7, 2017