### INTRODUCTION
From birth to career, there are many opportunities to develop strategies and interventions to increase attainment and improve workforce alignment. Below are some key areas and indicators that highlight where interventions may be possible to improve overall educational attainment outcomes.

### Building the Foundation: Pre-K to 8
High-quality early learning and strong academic progress in early years helps prepare children for future success.

Yancey County has 8 public schools with performance grades. Of these schools, none were classified as low performing in 2019.

### Ready for College & Career
High school completion is a crucial step on the pathway to postsecondary success or the beginnings of a career. Activities that prepare students to navigate the transition to postsecondary include gaining experience in college-level coursework and applying for financial assistance.

### Postsecondary Access and Success
These metrics capture student progression and educational attainment from high school graduation to postsecondary completion. They indicate relative strengths and weaknesses of Yancey County at each stage of the postsecondary pipeline.

Yancey County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 263:1.

### Labor Market Outcomes
Lack of technical skills and lack of education are among the primary reasons why NC employers struggle to fill vacancies. These metrics capture labor market outcomes among recent graduates, the alignment between postsecondary degree production and labor market demand, and future job demands.

9.9% of teens ages 16-19 are not working and not in school versus 8.9% of peer counties.

### Opportunities for Growth
Compared to rural non-metro counties and the state, these three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Yancey County to improve future attainment outcomes.

### COUNTY OVERVIEW
Yancey County is in the Boone-Wilkesboro Prosperity Zone sub-region. It’s one of 50 rural non-metro counties in NC.

Overall, 5% of 25-44 year-olds in Yancey County have earned a master’s degree or higher as their highest degree; 13% have a bachelor’s degree; 15% have an associate degree; 26% have some college, no degree; 30% have a high school diploma; and 11% have less than a high school diploma.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Population</th>
<th>18,455</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2030 Population</td>
<td>20,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Students (2019)</td>
<td>2,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Schools</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter/Private/Home</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$44,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Poverty Rate</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with Broadband</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How students in Yancey County traditional public schools are currently doing:

- 35 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 39%).
- 253 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 47%).
- 386 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 47%).

To meet state goals, Yancey County needs:
- 10 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 90%).
- 49 more seniors to complete the FAFSA (goal: 80% vs. 54%).
- 159 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 18%).

Students in Yancey County completed 182 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2019. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Architecture and Construction; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Manufacturing.

### In your Prosperity Zone sub-region, 2018-19:
- 12 individuals served in an Apprenticeship program.
- 1,740 Basic Skills enrollments at NC community colleges.
- 8,809 Continuing Education enrollments at NC community colleges.

There are 84,705 job openings projected between 2017-2026. The top 3 in demand jobs with median wages of $50,000 or more are: 1) Registered Nurses; 2) General and Operations Managers; 3) First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers.

### Labor Market Outcomes
In your Prosperity Zone sub-region: Public postsecondary institutions graduate 5,225 students per year. After 5 years, 70% of 2013 graduates were employed in NC, earning an annual average wage of $41,744.

72% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs. The top gap is: Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s).

### First-Year Persistence
69% of Yancey County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the rural non-metro county average of 73%.

### Transition to Postsecondary
49% of Yancey County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the rural non-metro county average of 57%.

### NC Pre-K Enrollment
39% of Yancey County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural non-metro county average of 64%.

### Child Poverty Rate
26%

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Largest postsecondary institutions in your Prosperity Zone sub-region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Name</th>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollments 2017-18</th>
<th>Graduate or Transfer in 8 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollments</td>
<td>28,661</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian State University</td>
<td>18,135</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute</td>
<td>4,636</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkes Community College</td>
<td>3,416</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayland Community College</td>
<td>1,455</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lees-McRae College</td>
<td>1,019</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
Enrollments reflect degree- or credential-seeking undergraduate enrollments. The graduate or transfer rate is drawn from IPEDS and represents the share of students who either graduate with a degree or credential from the institution or transfer to another institution within 8 years. The 8-year outcome is the only measure that includes information on transfer out. Detailed data guidance is provided at http://go.unc.edu/countydata

Local Cross-Sector Promising Practice: Country Cablevision
A $25.3 million Community Connect Grant from the USDA’s Rural Utilities Service in 2010 made it possible for a collaborative partnership between the counties and Country Cablevision to install fiber optic cables in Mitchell and Yancey Counties. Country Cablevision, Inc. (CCVN) is committed to providing our Internet services as an open platform for innovation, investment, job creation, economic growth, competition, and free expression.

We identified this example of an emerging cross-sector promising practice in partnership with local leaders. If you have additional examples you’d like to share with myFutureNC, please respond to this short survey.

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:
dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/

ABOUT CAROLINA DEMOGRAPHY
Located within the Carolina Population Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, we use data and other available research to help you put a face or a story on the population-level changes facing your community. Our analysts provide a full array of demographic data and research services to inform decision making, evaluation, and policy across North Carolina, where we serve organizations and people in all 100 counties.

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demography@unc.edu
@ncdemography

ABOUT MYFUTURENC
MyFutureNC is a statewide nonprofit organization focused on educational attainment and is the result of cross-sector collaboration between North Carolina leaders in education, business, and government. Our mission is to prepare North Carolina for the future by empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and ensuring our economic viability in a global economy.

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