

**Resistance to  
Liberal Education:  
Is it policy, culture, or both?  
How can it be overcome?**

**Paul E. Lingenfelter**

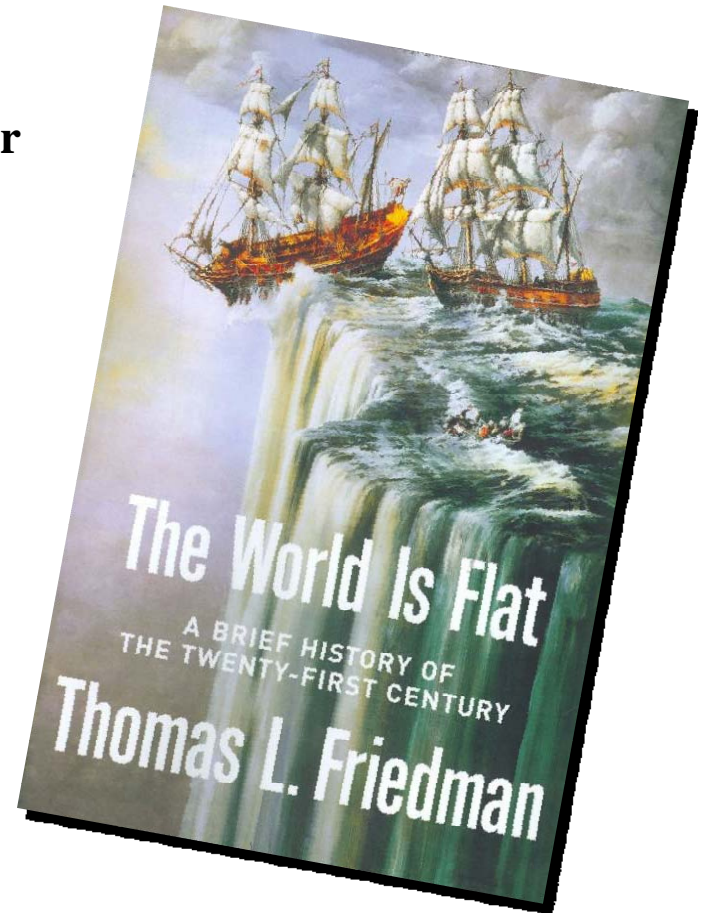
**President, State Higher Education Executive Officers**

**Association of American Colleges and Universities**

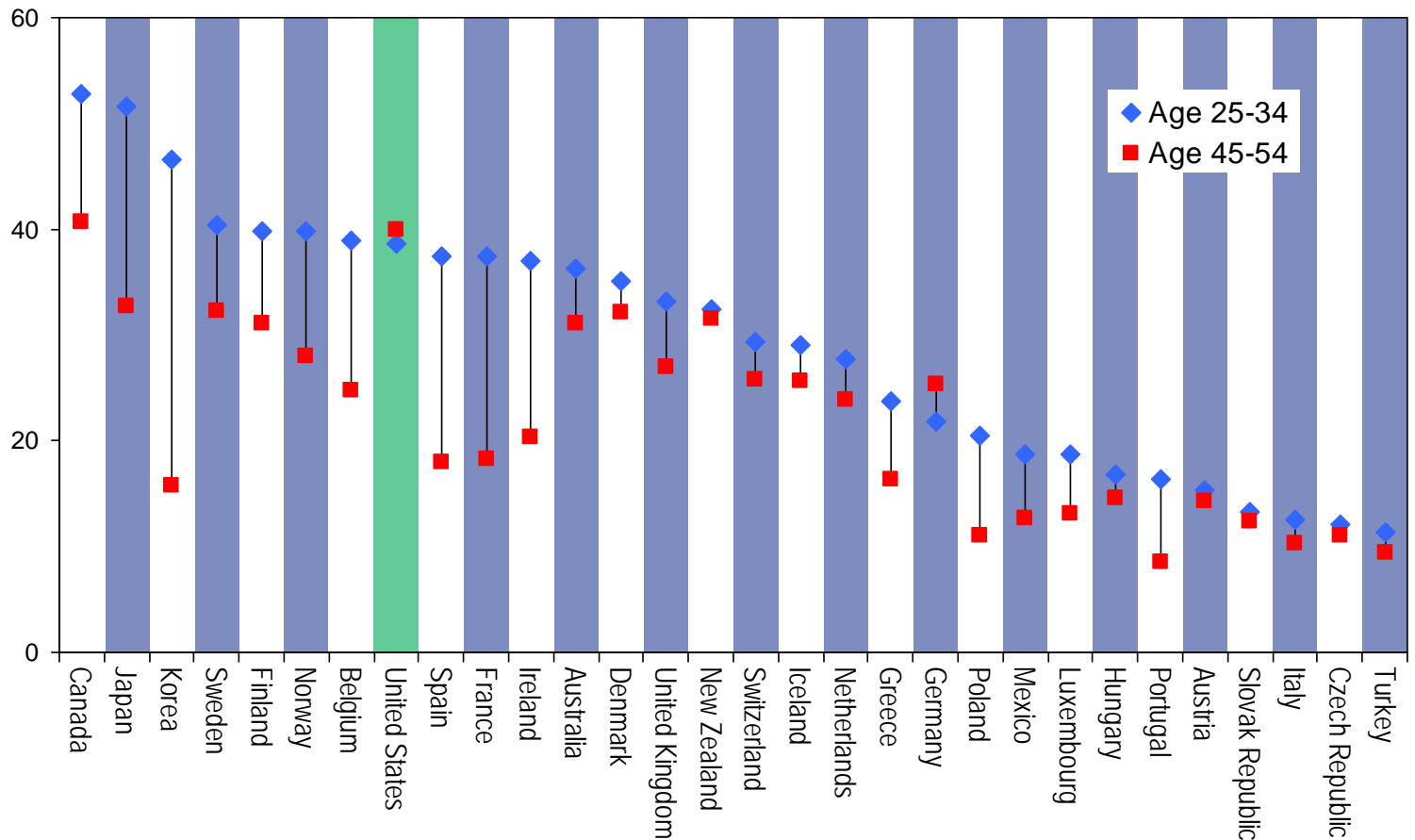
**Friday, January 22, 2010**

# Forces Flattening the Global Playing Field

- **Fall of Berlin Wall**
- **First Mainstream Web Browser**
- **Work Flow Software**
- **Open Sourcing**
- **Outsourcing**
- **Offshoring**
- **Supply-chaining**
- **Insourcing**
- **In-forming**
- **“The Steroids” Wireless Mobile Digital Communication**



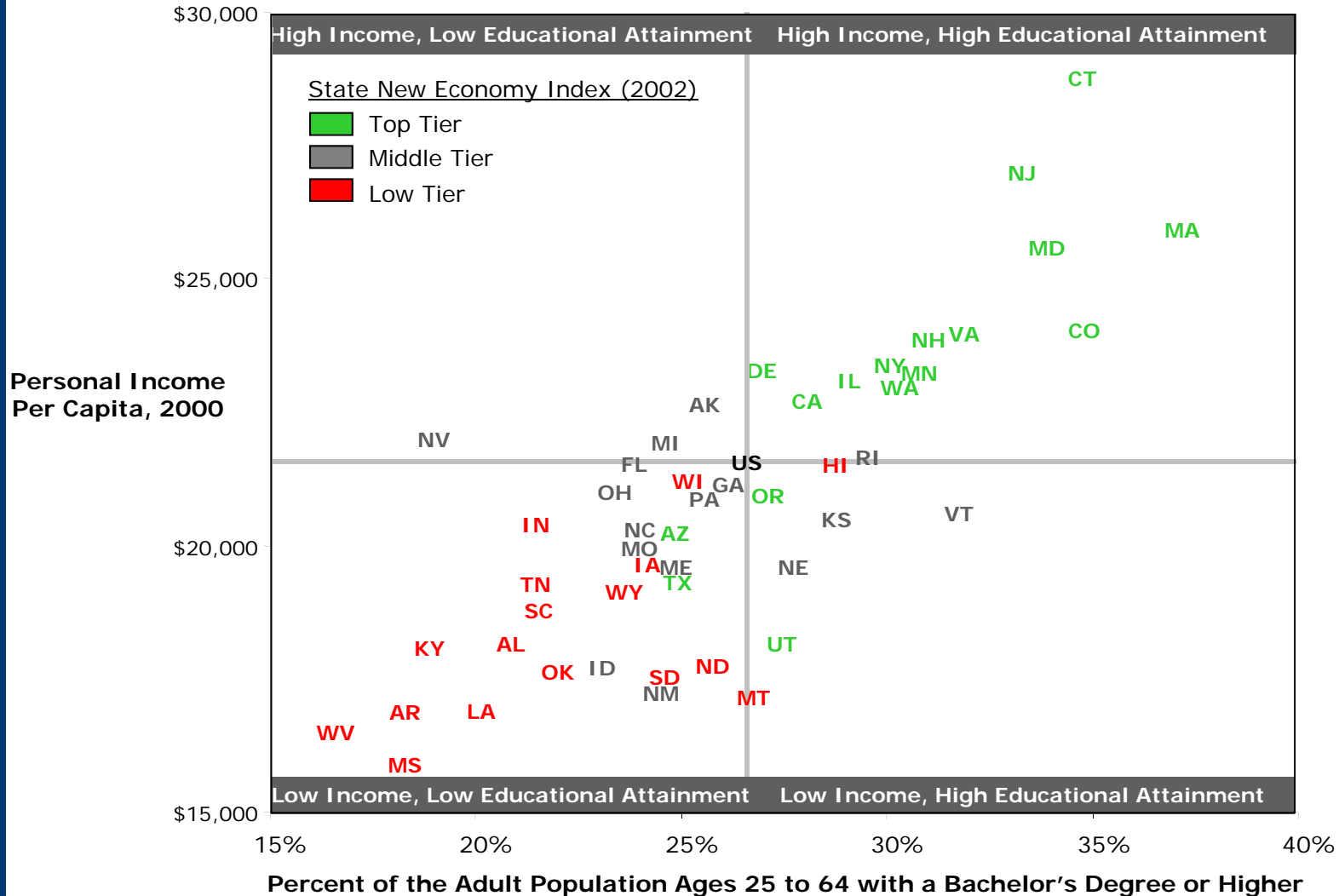
# Differences in College Attainment (Associate and Higher) Between Young and Older Adults - U.S. and OECD Countries, 2004



Source: Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) -- NCHEMS

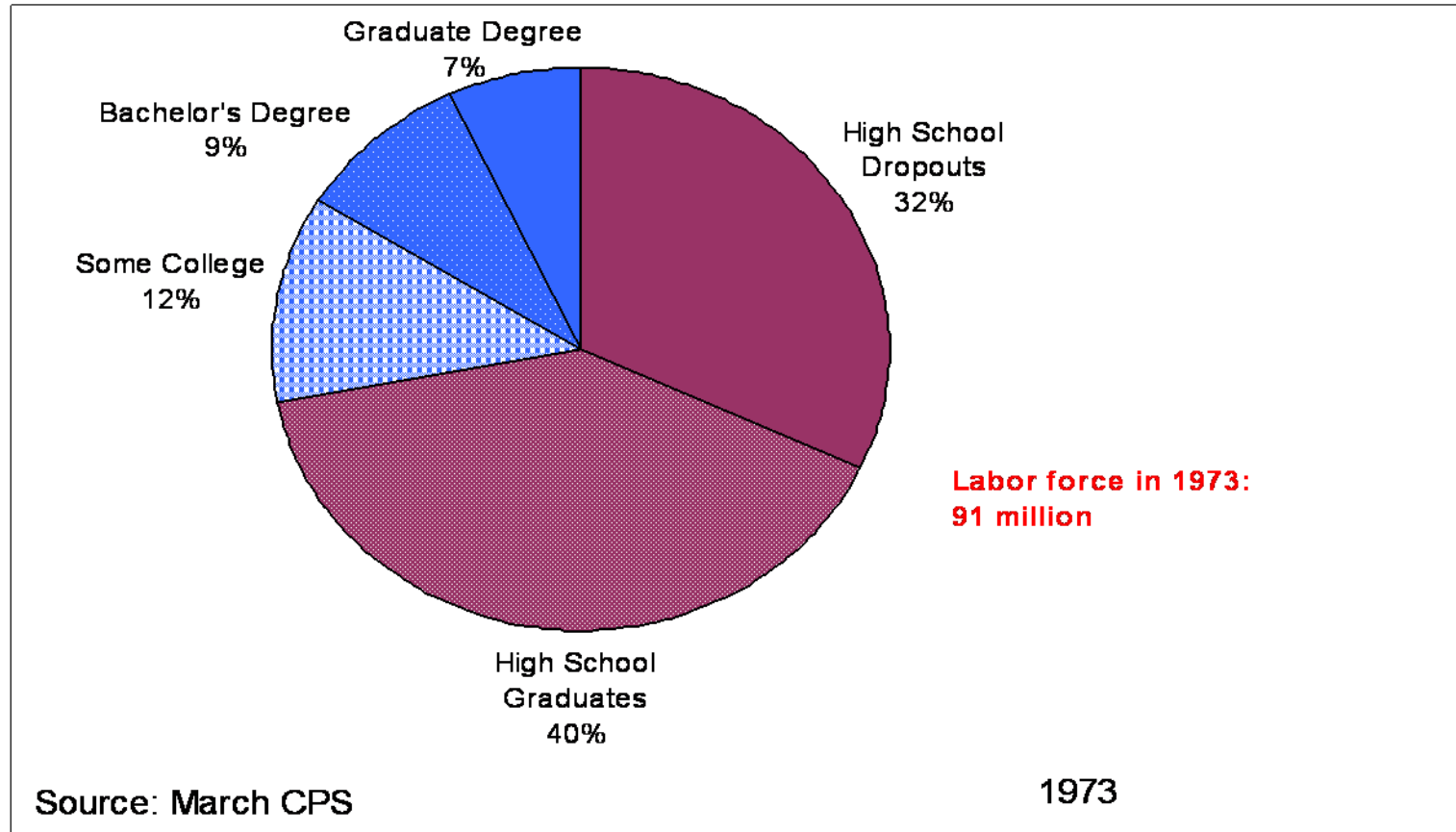
# Fifty State View: Education and Prosperity

## Educational Attainment, Personal Income, and Economic Strength

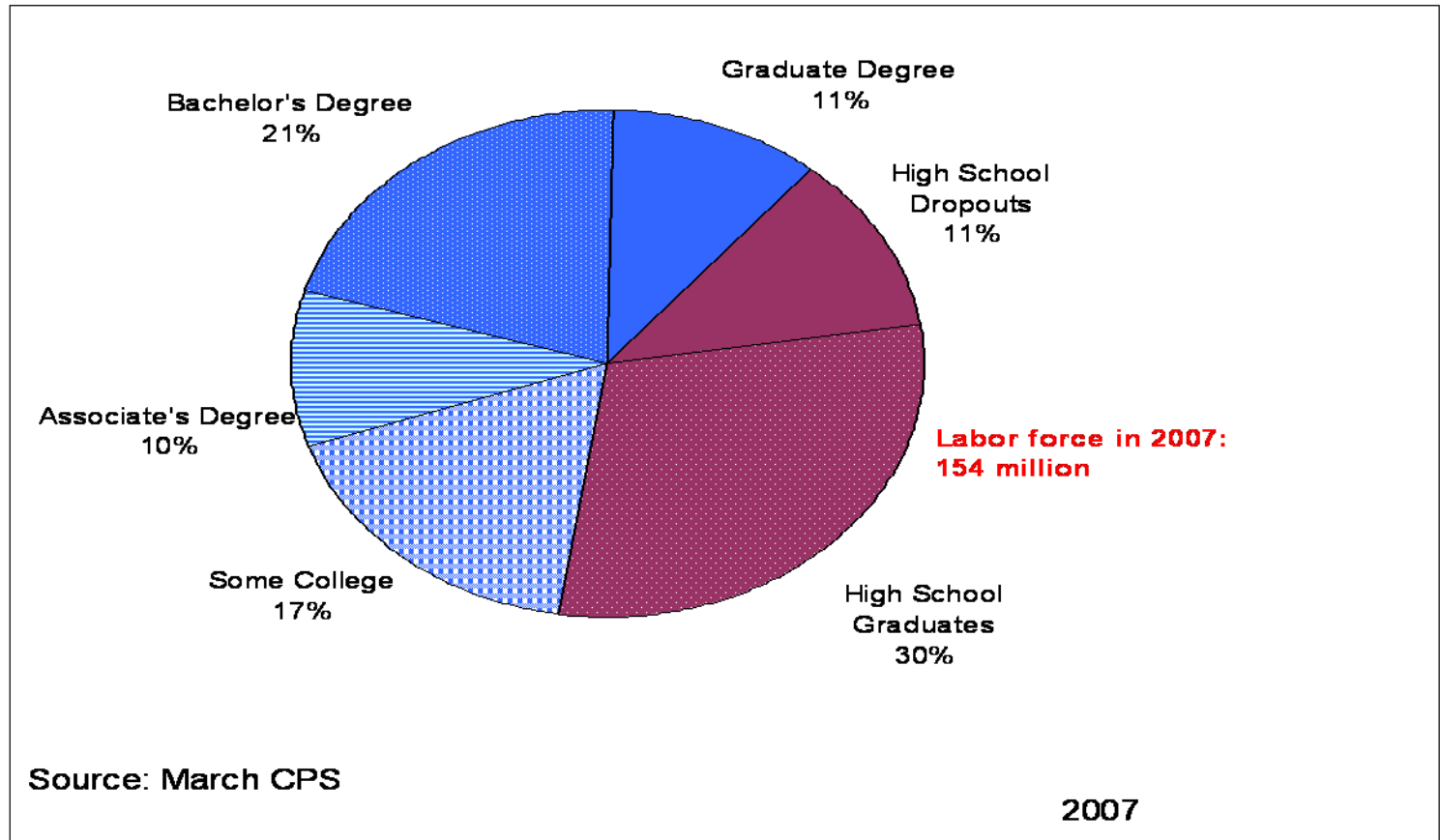


Source: Patrick Kelly, NCHEMS

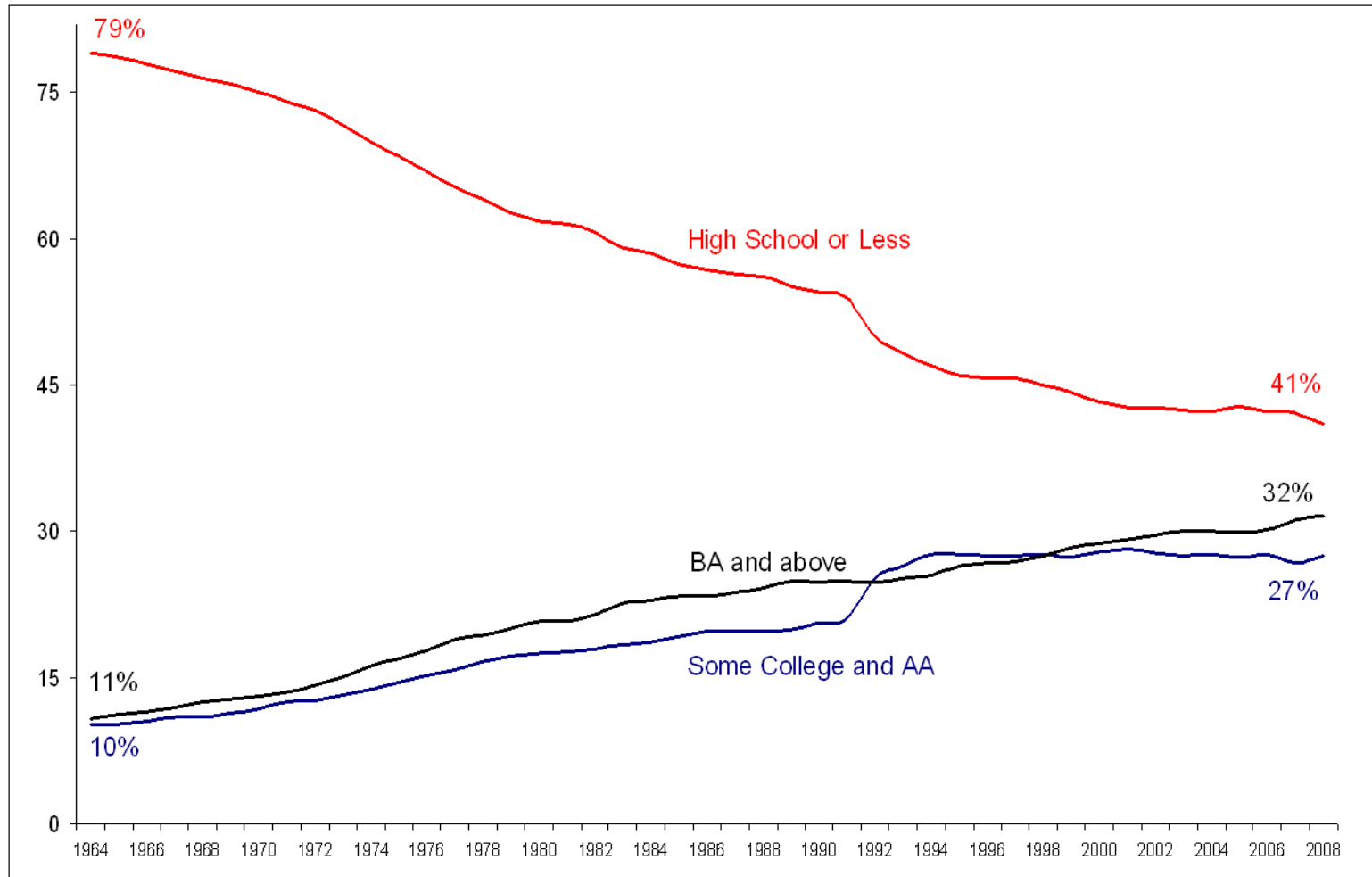
# Education of the U.S. Labor Force 1973



# Education of the U.S. Labor Force, 2007

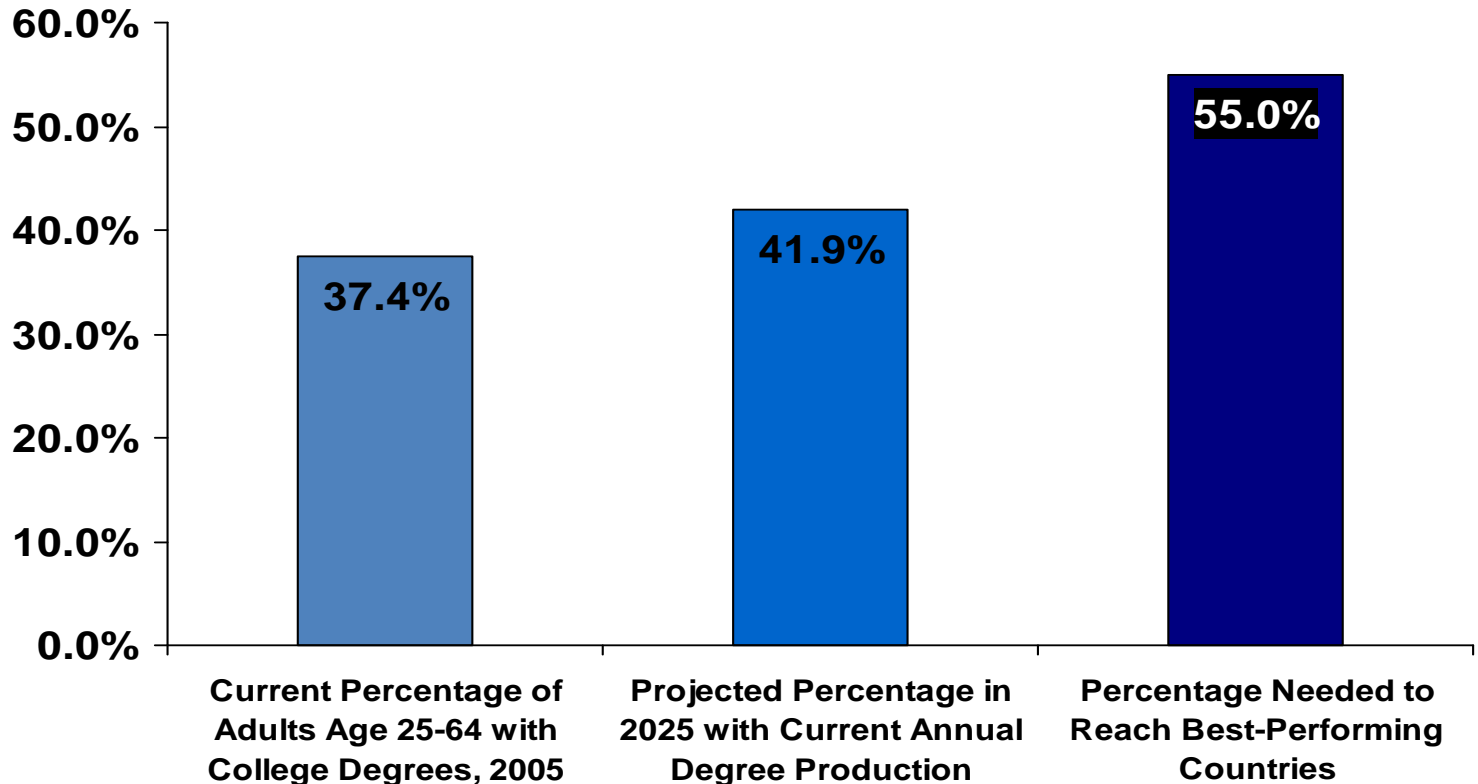


# Jobs in the last 4 decades have increasingly required post secondary education



# To match leading nations 55% of U.S. adults must attain some college degree by 2025, but...

By 2025, the U.S. will fall 16 million degrees short of this attainment rate if we fail to increase college degree production above the current rate.



## **Are we facing a chasm to bridge or a mountain to climb?**

- Are policy makers are on one side of a chasm with academic leaders on the other?**
- Or are we *all* afflicted with outmoded ideas about liberal education, shaped by the “old economy” and persistent elitism, a mountain that needs climbing?**
- We have met the enemy and he is us. (Pogo)**

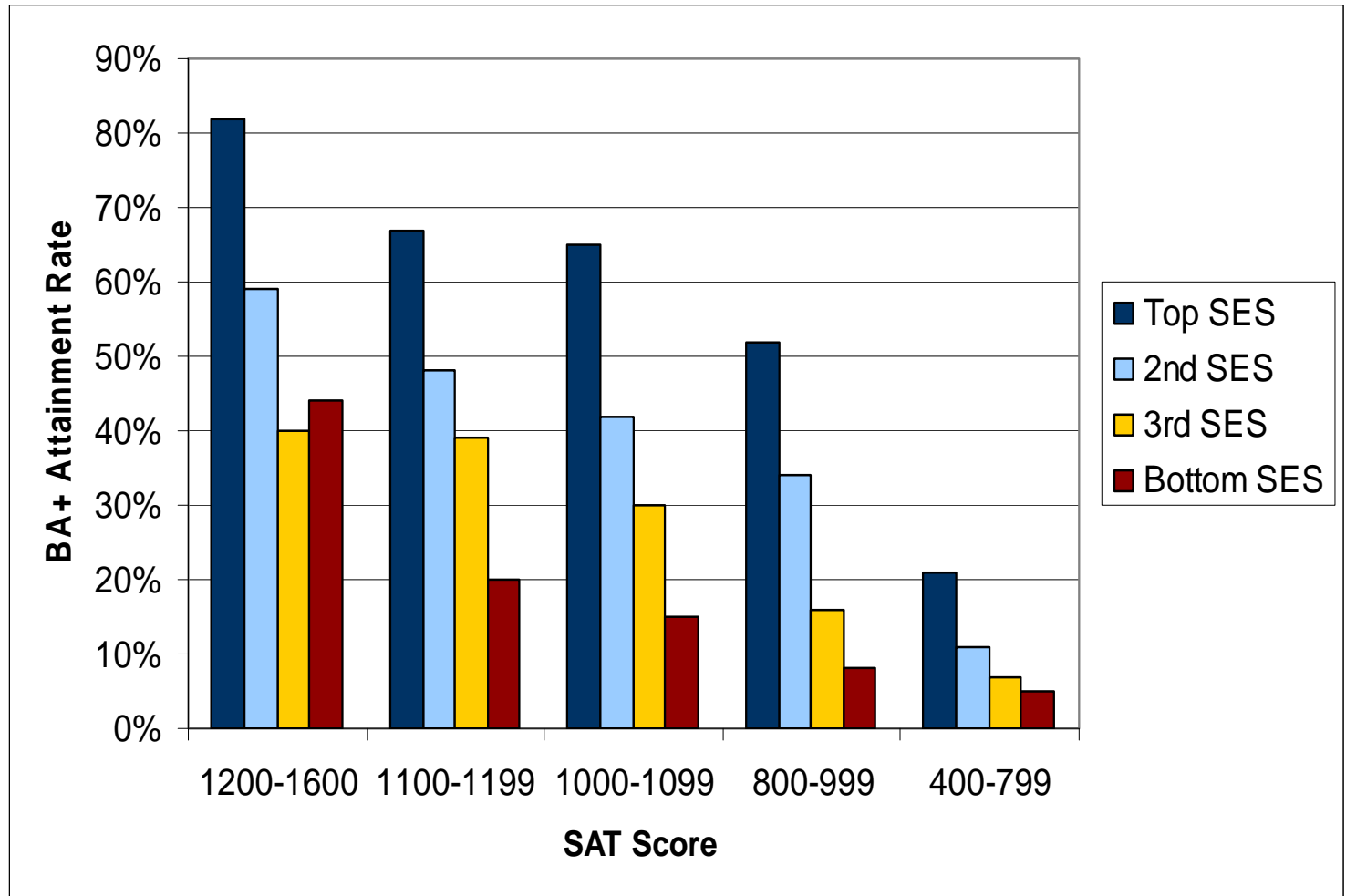
## **Sources of resistance to liberal education –**

- ❑ The Jeffersonian model of universal education**
- ❑ Charles Murray’s ideas about “real education,” the limited capacity of ordinary people, and the related tendency to emphasize sorting and selecting over building capacity**
- ❑ Contrast Jefferson and Murray with Lincoln, whose passion was empowering the common man**

# College Participation by SES Status

College Participation By Achievement Test and Socioeconomic Status Quartile		SES Quartile	
		Lowest	Highest
Achievement Quartile	Highest	78%	97%
	Lowest	36%	77%

# Degree Attainment by SAT Scores and SES



Source: Anthony Carnevale, *Liberal Education*, Fall 2008, p. 58.

## **What is required to meet these social, economic, and moral challenges?**

- **Establish a coherent, concrete vision of liberal education – LEAP will serve nicely**
- **End casual, undisciplined approaches to learning and assessment**
- **Diminish the barriers of academic culture and language**
- **Address questions of cost and productivity**

---

## Contact Information

**Paul E. Lingenfelter**  
*[paul@sheeo.org](mailto:paul@sheeo.org)*

**303-541-1605**