The Humphreys and Perry College Completion Community brings together two counties from different Economic and Community Development regions and community college service areas. This unique partnership has offered community leaders the opportunity for new and rich collaboration. Perry County is home to The Ayers Foundation, making it a cornerstone in the state’s progress in higher education access and support. Humphreys County serves as an economic pillar in the region and is a model for engaging industry partners to directly support postsecondary opportunities for students.

Drawing from their individual assets and strengths, Humphreys and Perry counties will leverage existing initiatives and cultivate new partnerships in order to improve secondary to postsecondary initiatives and increase industry engagement to drive postsecondary success and economic growth.

**Secondary to Postsecondary Goal:** Increasing high school students’ exposure to postsecondary programs, coursework, and institutions by...

**Strategies:**
- Establishing an intergenerational leadership development program that recruits regional K-12 educators, postsecondary leaders, and students who can serve as community advocates and build local ownership of the Drive to 55;
- Improving student data collection and analysis, as demonstrated by The Ayer’s Foundation, by advocating for necessary county-level data from state agencies; and
- Increasing Nashville State Community College’s presence in Humphreys County by placing college representatives into the high schools, modeled after The Ayers Foundation.
Industry Engagement

**Goal:** Strengthening the education-to-career pipeline and fostering connections between industry and education leaders by...

**Strategies:**
- Creating an **intergenerational leadership development program** that targets regional industry leaders who can serve as community advocates and build local ownership of the Drive to 55;
- Expanding the Humphreys County **manufacturing co-op program** into Perry County to increase opportunities for on-the-job training;
- Extending the Humphreys County Manufacturing Council into Perry County to **increase regional collaboration** and industry engagement; and
- Implementing an **advocacy campaign** to help educate newly-elected officials about the state's postsecondary landscape and opportunities to strengthen the regional workforce through enhanced industry engagement.

Tennessee has set a goal to equip 55% of residents with a postsecondary credential by 2025. This graph illustrates each county's degree attainment rate, along with a county-specific attainment goal.

Many high-demand jobs now require college credentials. Despite strong high school graduation rates in Tennessee, fewer students enroll in college. This graph compares each county's high school graduation rate with the local college-going rate.

Reaching the state's Drive to 55 goal will have significant economic benefits for individual Tennesseans as well as local and state government. This chart highlights the projected increases in household income and local and state tax revenues by county.