



# 2022-30 STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA UPDATE

Association of  
Independent Kentucky  
Colleges and Universities

November 22, 2024



Affordability



Transitions



Success



Equity



Talent



Value

# Overview



18 private, nonprofit colleges and universities

All accredited by SACSCOC and licensed by CPE, and participate in strategic agenda and CPE data collections

Located in almost every part of the Commonwealth, many in rural areas and small towns where they are anchor institutions

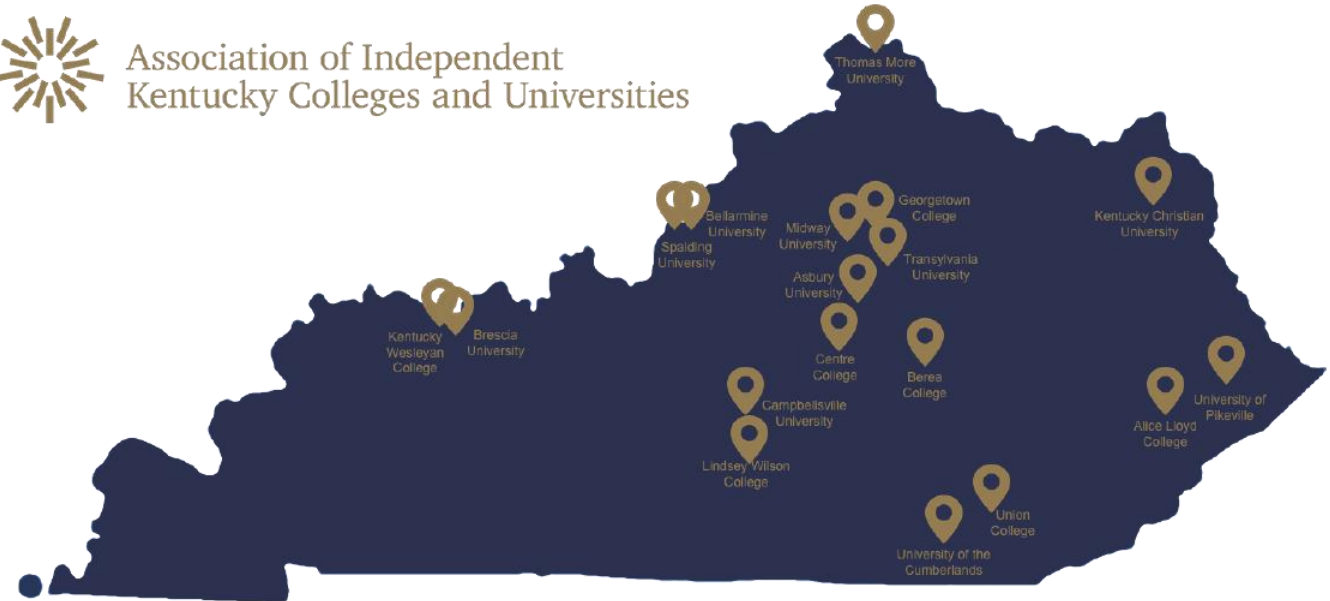
Diverse, mission-driven institutions: traditional, residential liberal arts colleges to comprehensive universities with workforce programs through PhDs and robust online and hybrid delivery models.

# AIKCU Overview

**18 private,  
nonprofit  
colleges and  
universities**



Association of Independent  
Kentucky Colleges and Universities



Alice Lloyd College • Asbury University • Bellarmine University • Berea College • Brescia University  
Campbellsville University • Centre College • Georgetown College • Kentucky Christian University  
Kentucky Wesleyan College • Lindsey Wilson College • Midway University • Spalding University  
Thomas More University • Transylvania University • Union Commonwealth University  
University of Pikeville • University of the Cumberland

# AIKCU by the numbers

## By the numbers



18

SACSOC-accredited  
independent,  
nonprofit  
colleges &  
universities



59,000

students  
(33k UG)



15,600

degrees and  
credentials  
awarded  
2023-24



8,400

employees  
(5500 FT)



# AIKCU by the numbers

## By the numbers



\$94M

"Big 3" KY Lottery-funded state aid to AIKCU students in FY24



\$37M

median endowment



\$400M+

annual institutional student aid



40%

Undergraduates receive Pell grants



# AIKCU Collaborations

AIKCU has developed a number of collaborative programs designed to help members control costs and be more efficient, including:

- AIKCU Benefits Alliance – Collaborative employee health insurance and pharmacy benefits program to help campuses control costs
- AIKCU Multiple Employer Plan (MEP) Retirement Plan
- Consortial agreements and vendor contracts that allow small institutions to leverage the purchasing power of the association/larger national groups
- AIKCU Advancing Leaders Program – new collaborative leadership development program for mid-level campus leaders

# AIKCU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON AFFORDABILITY



- Investments in student aid
  - \$400+ million in institutional aid annually
  - Virtually every student receives some financial aid
  - Average FTFT tuition discount rate is >50%
- Work with KHEAA, K12 partners to encourage FAFSA completion
- Recruiting and supporting low-income and first-generation students: 40% of undergrads are Pell recipients
- 2/3 of AIKCU institutions offer tuition guarantees for lowest income students
- Embrace transfer and dual credit partners

# AIKCU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON AFFORDABILITY



- Moderating tuition increases: average published tuition increase was 2.5% this year
- Holding down increases in housing/food, despite inflationary pressures: median remains <\$10,000
- Several institutions provide books at no additional cost
- Emphasize completion in 4 years (or less):  $\frac{3}{4}$  of students who graduate from the institution where they begin finish in 4 years

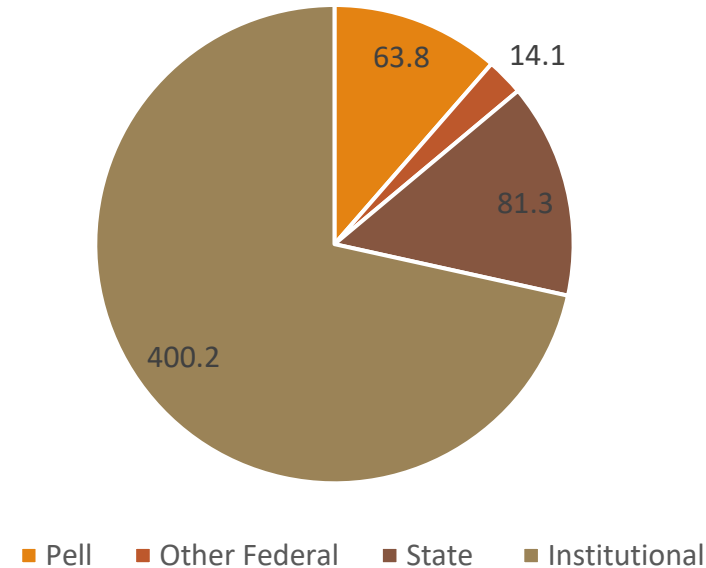


# AIKCU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON AFFORDABILITY



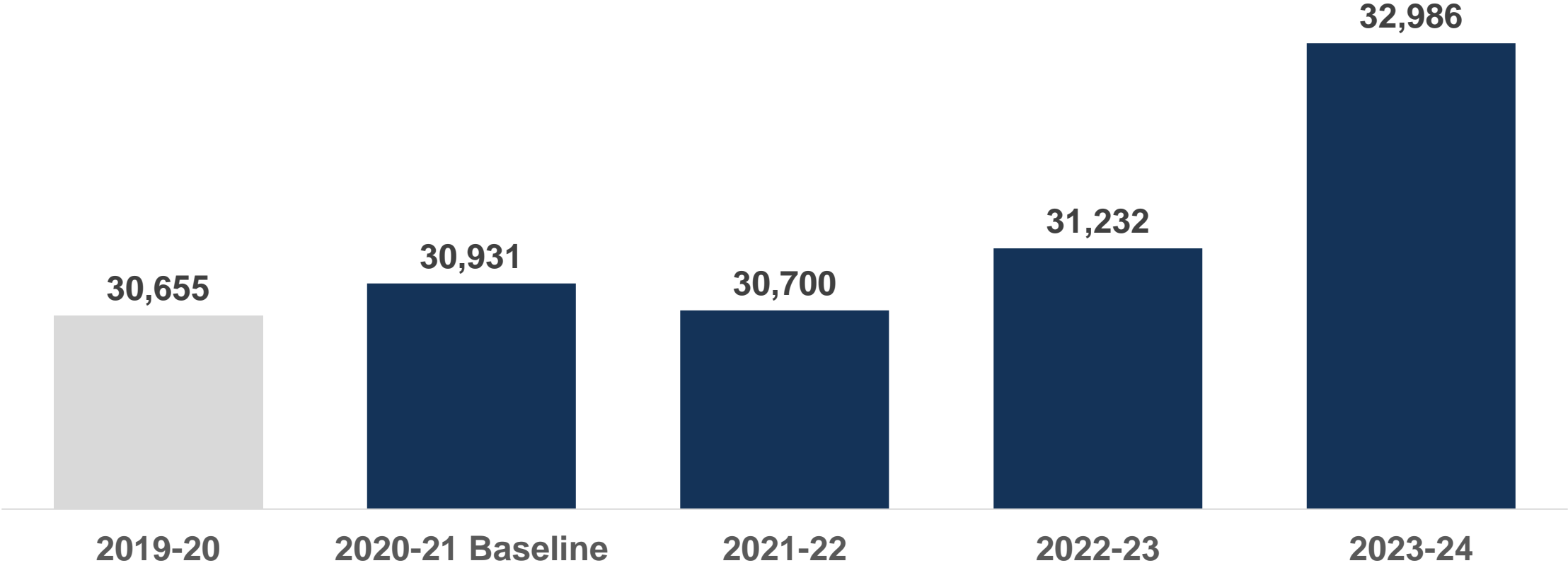
Federal and Kentucky Lottery-funded state aid plays a major role in enhancing affordability for AIKCU students, but institutional aid is the largest source of student aid.

Financial Aid Source FY23 (millions)

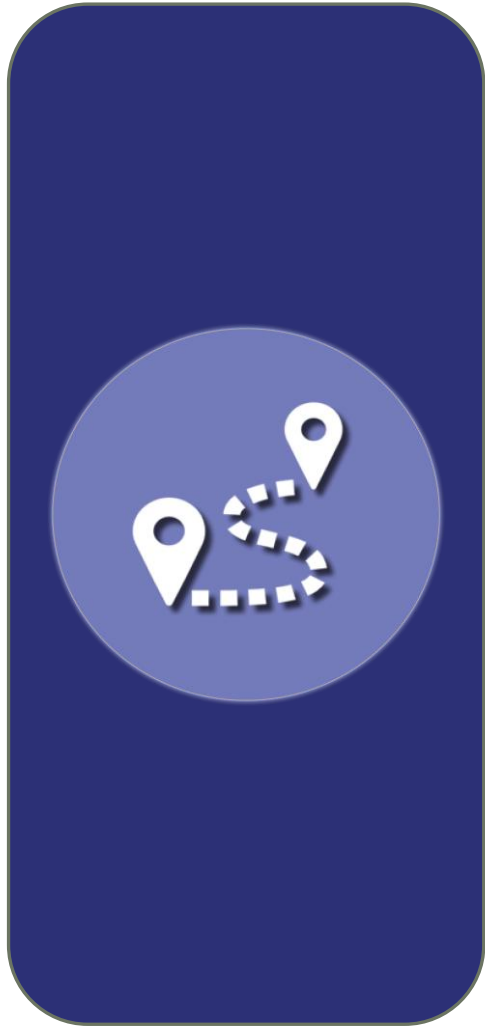


# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- TRANSITIONS

**Undergraduate Enrollment:** Total unduplicated number of students who enroll in an undergraduate program offered by one of Kentucky's AIKCU colleges or universities in an academic year, either full-time or part-time.



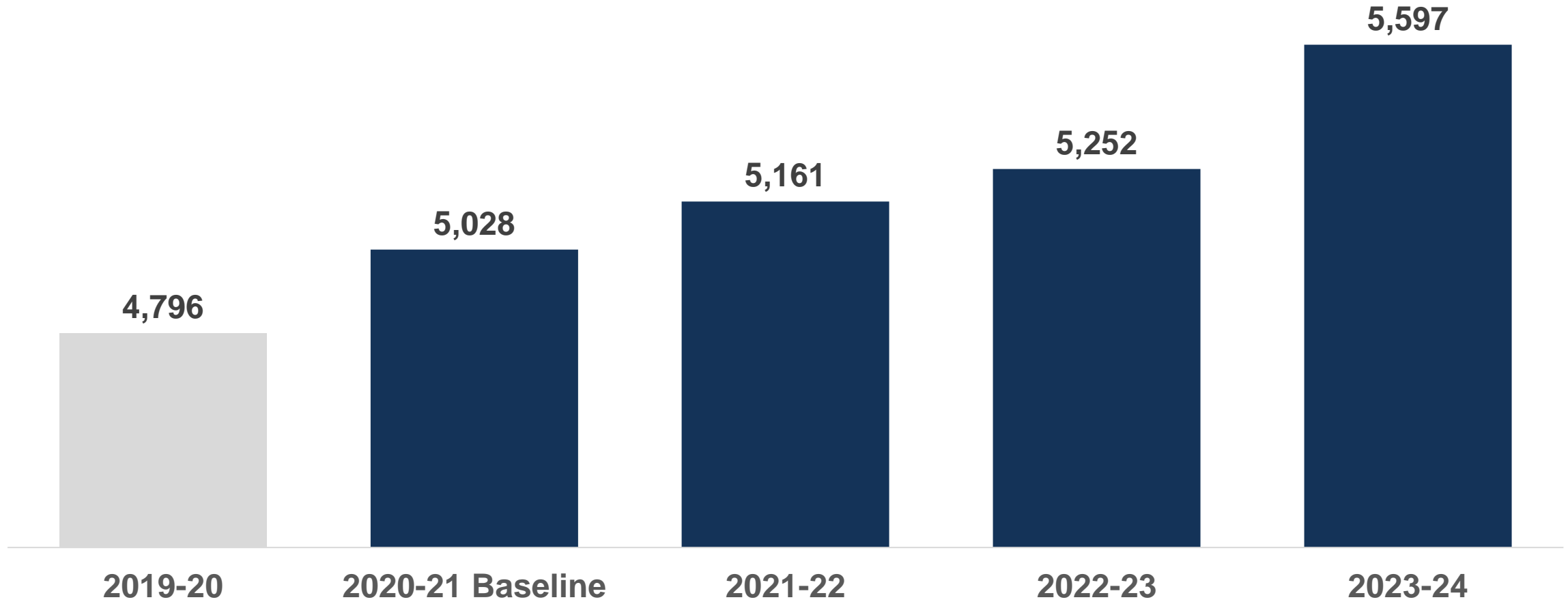
# AIKCU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON TRANSITIONS



- Work closely with K-12 partners to encourage postsecondary transitions and FAFSA completion
- Transfer partnerships with KCTCS:12 AIKCU institutions currently have system-level transfer agreements, with more college-level partnerships
- Partnering with community and faith-based organizations and employers to encourage successful transitions
- Summer bridge programs
- 2/3 of AIKCU institutions offer dual credit programs

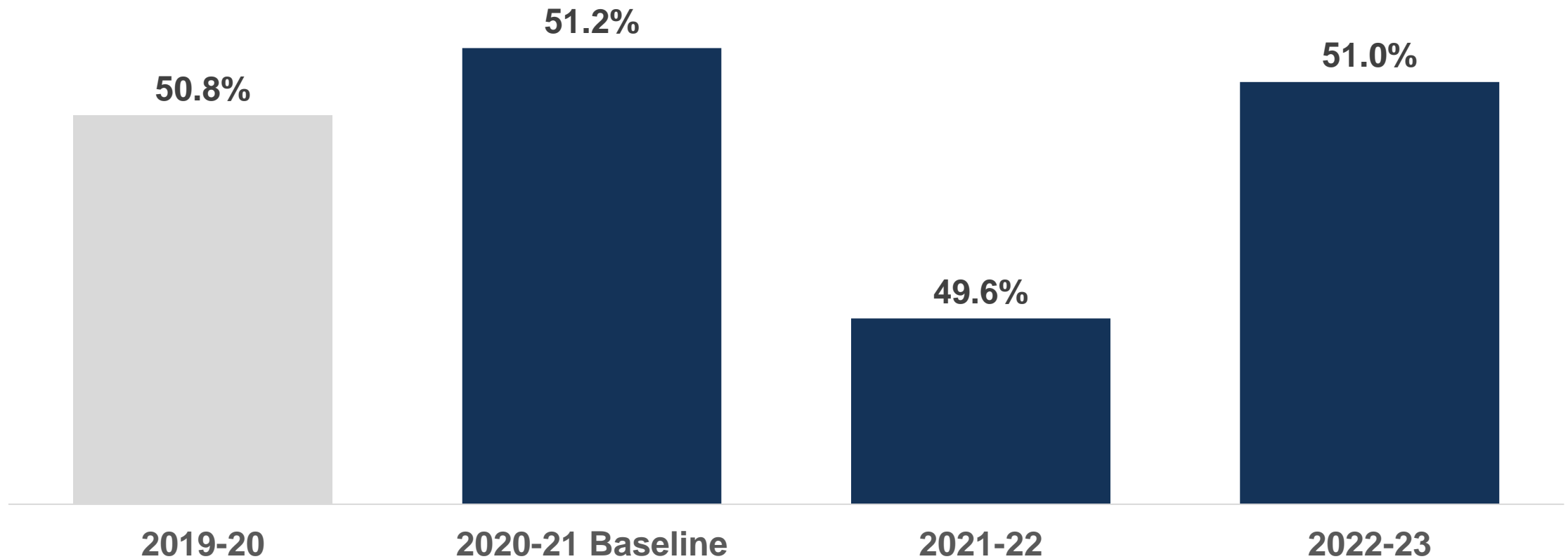
# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

**Undergraduate Degrees:** Number of baccalaureate degrees awarded in an academic year.



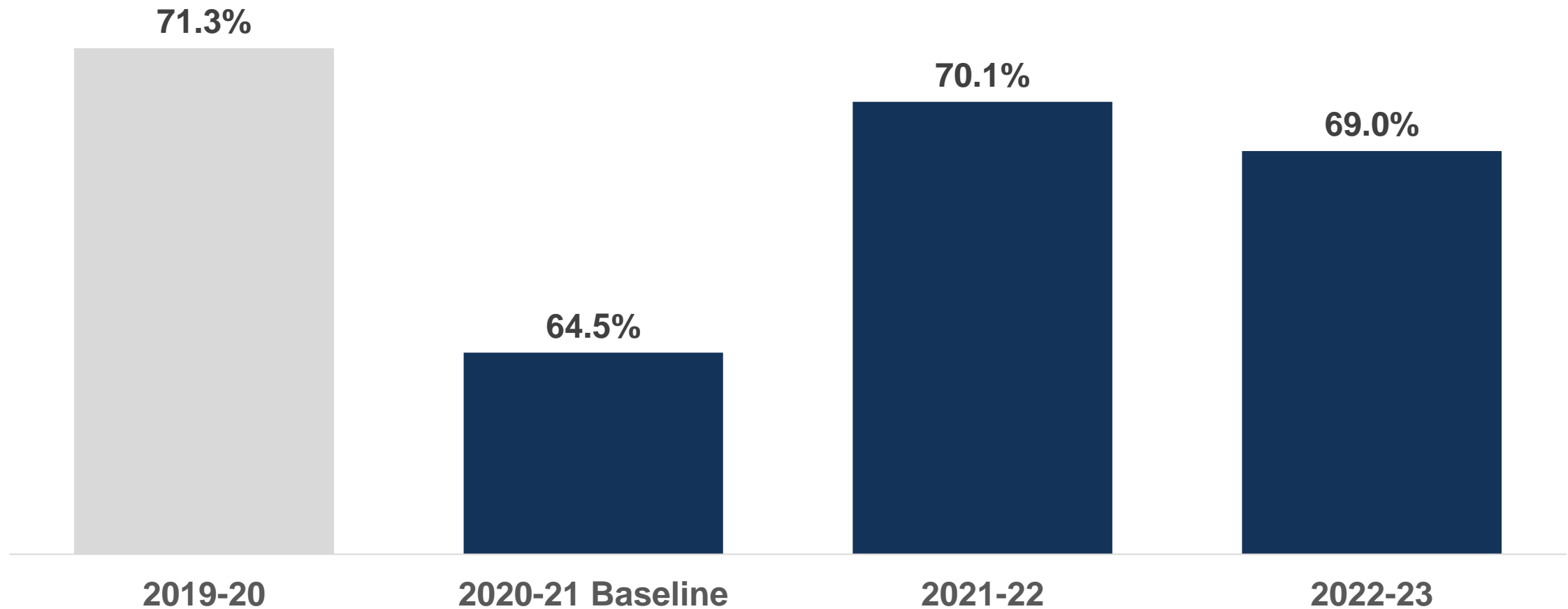
# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

**Graduation Rate:** Percentage of first-time, full-time degree-seeking students who receive an undergraduate degree within 6 years



# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- SUCCESS

**Retention Rate:** Percentage of first-time, degree- or credential-seeking students enrolled in the summer or fall of their first year who are still enrolled at the same institution the following fall.



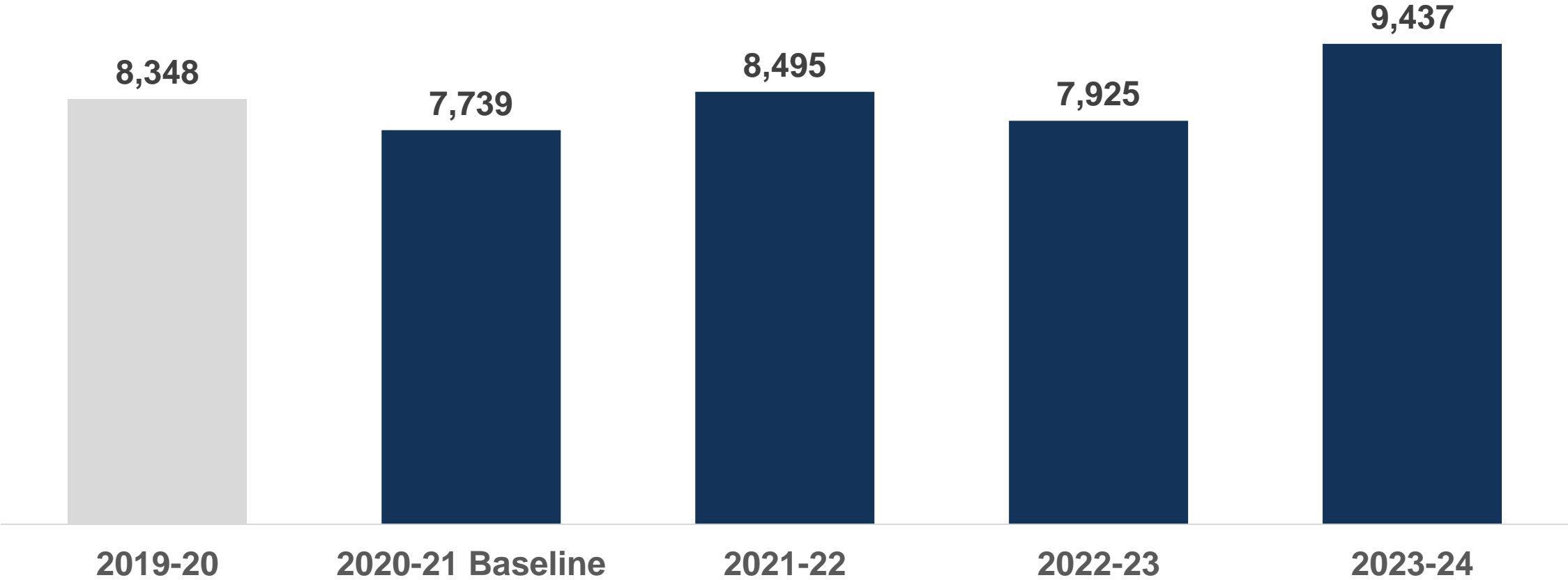
# AIKCU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON SUCCESS



- High-impact practices: undergraduate research, internships, faculty mentoring, study abroad
- Efforts to improve retention, particularly upper-class students
- Investments in student mental health supports and other wrap-around services
- Student success supports for all students: low-income, first-generation, rural, military, diverse, and underserved populations
- Flexible programs that work for adult learners: 1 in 4 AIKCU bachelor's degrees in '23-24 was awarded to students ages 25-64

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS -- TALENT

**Graduate and Professional Degrees:** Total number of graduate/professional degrees awarded in an academic year.



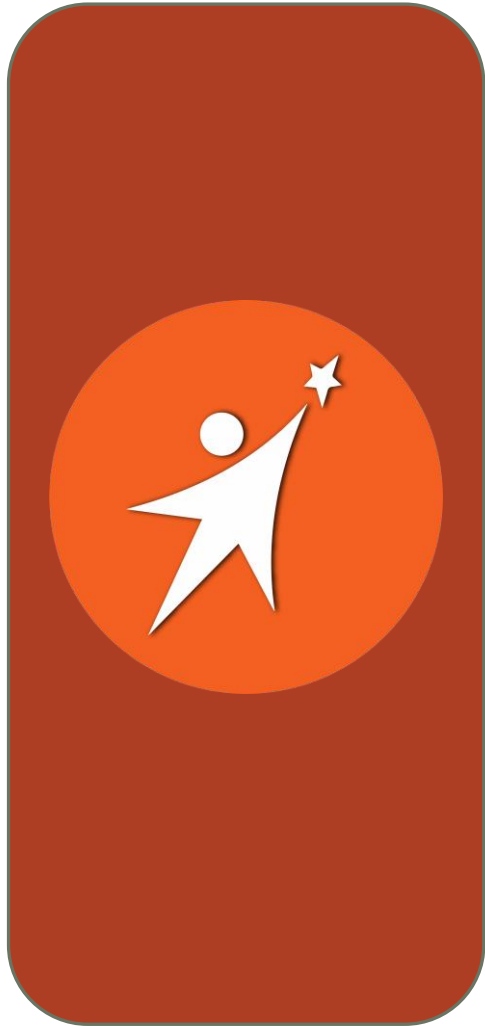


# AIKCU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON TALENT



- Academic programs that align with needs of Commonwealth and employers: particularly healthcare, education, business, mental health, information technology
- Partnerships with employers and other organizations focused on developing talent pipelines
- Internships and other experiential learning opportunities

# AIKCU'S KEY STRATEGIES ON VALUE



- Graduate students in 4 years, minimizing out-of-pocket and opportunity costs
- Continue to communicate the ROI of an independent college education: financial ROI as well as other metrics of success (successful transitions to graduate and professional schools, community impacts, etc.)
- Help students develop essential skills necessary for immediate employment as well as the adaptability for lifelong learning and career progression

