



The Relationship Between Rurality, Social Class Identity, & College Access

Sonja Ardoin, Ph.D.

sonjaardoin@gmail.com

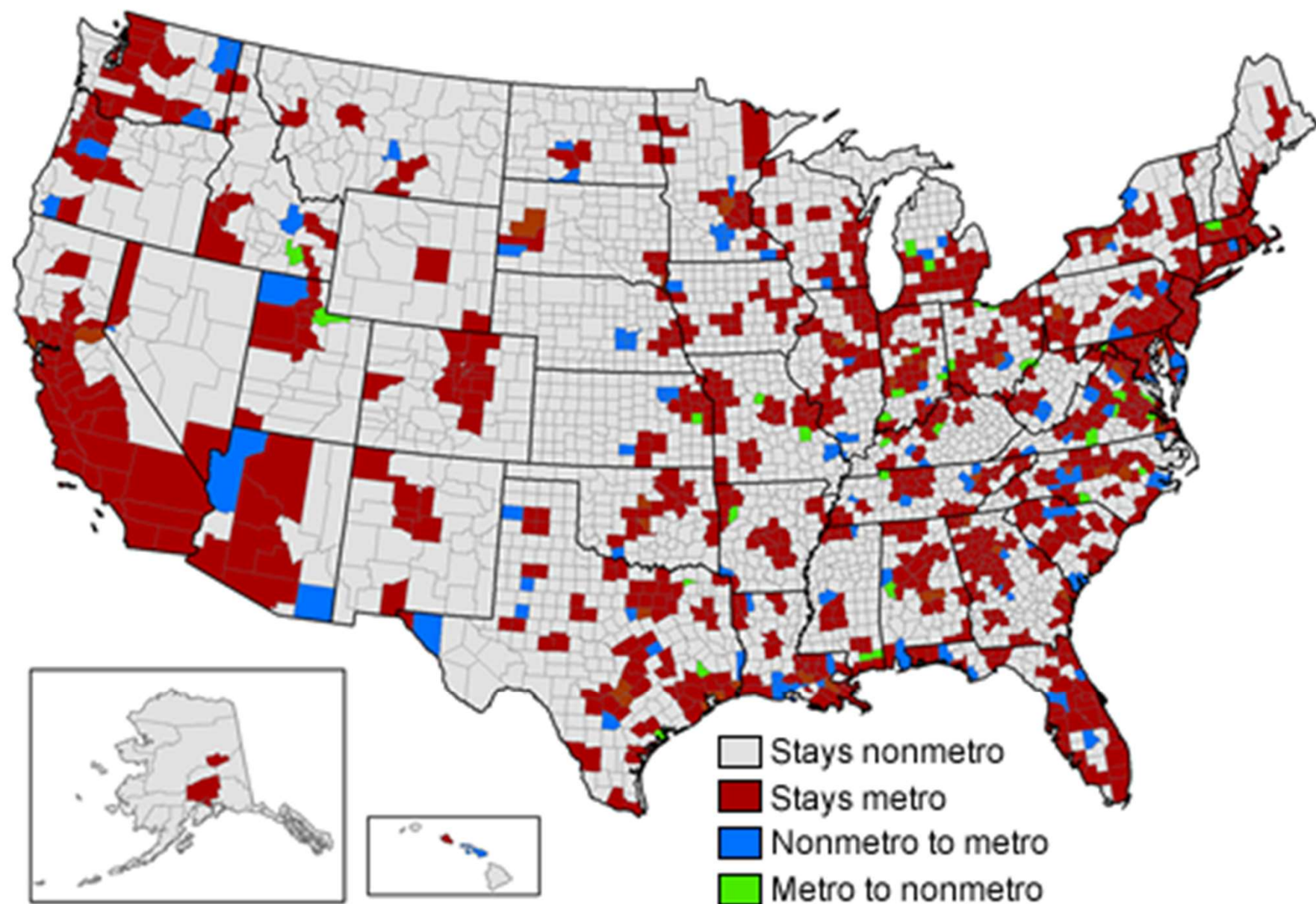
[@SonjaArdoin](#)

www.sonjaardoin.com





Counties changing metro status, 2003-2013



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

What is Social Class Identity?

“script, map, and guide. It tells us how to talk, how to dress, how to hold ourselves, how to eat, and how to socialize ... in short, class is nearly everything about you”

(Lubrano, 2004, p. 5)

Liu et al.
(2005)
Social Class
Worldview
Model

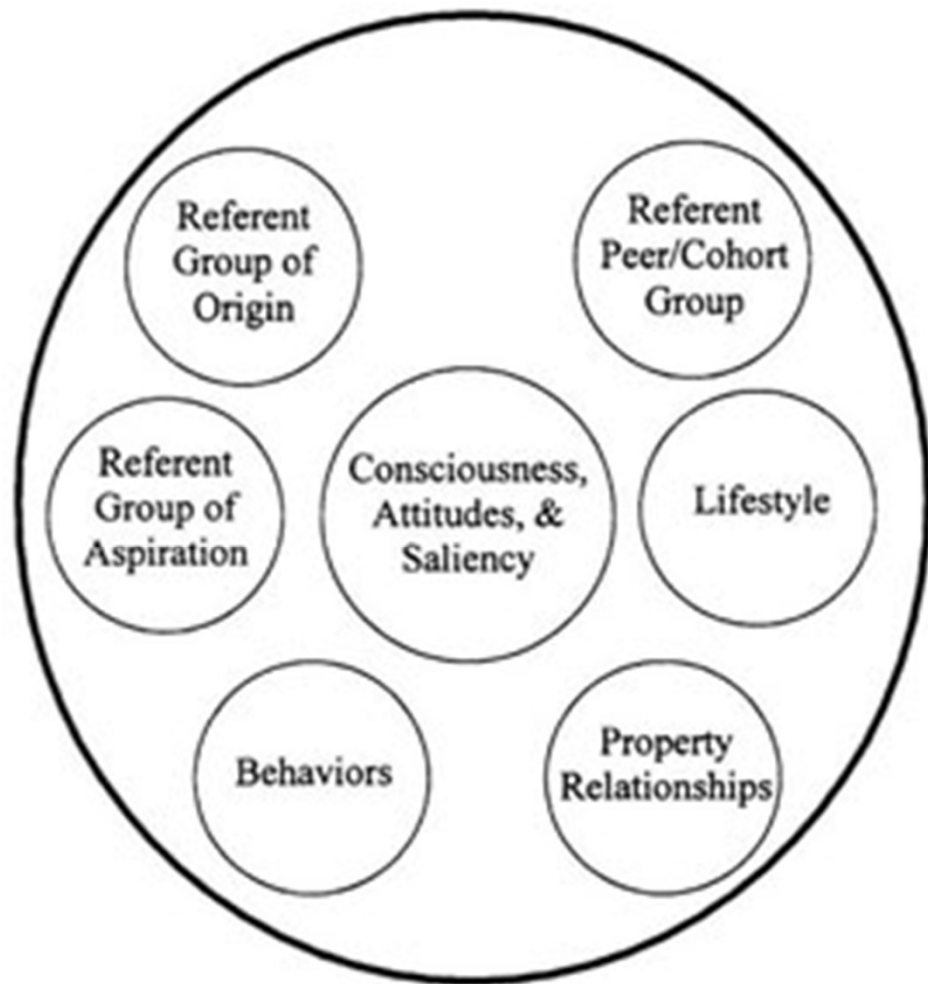
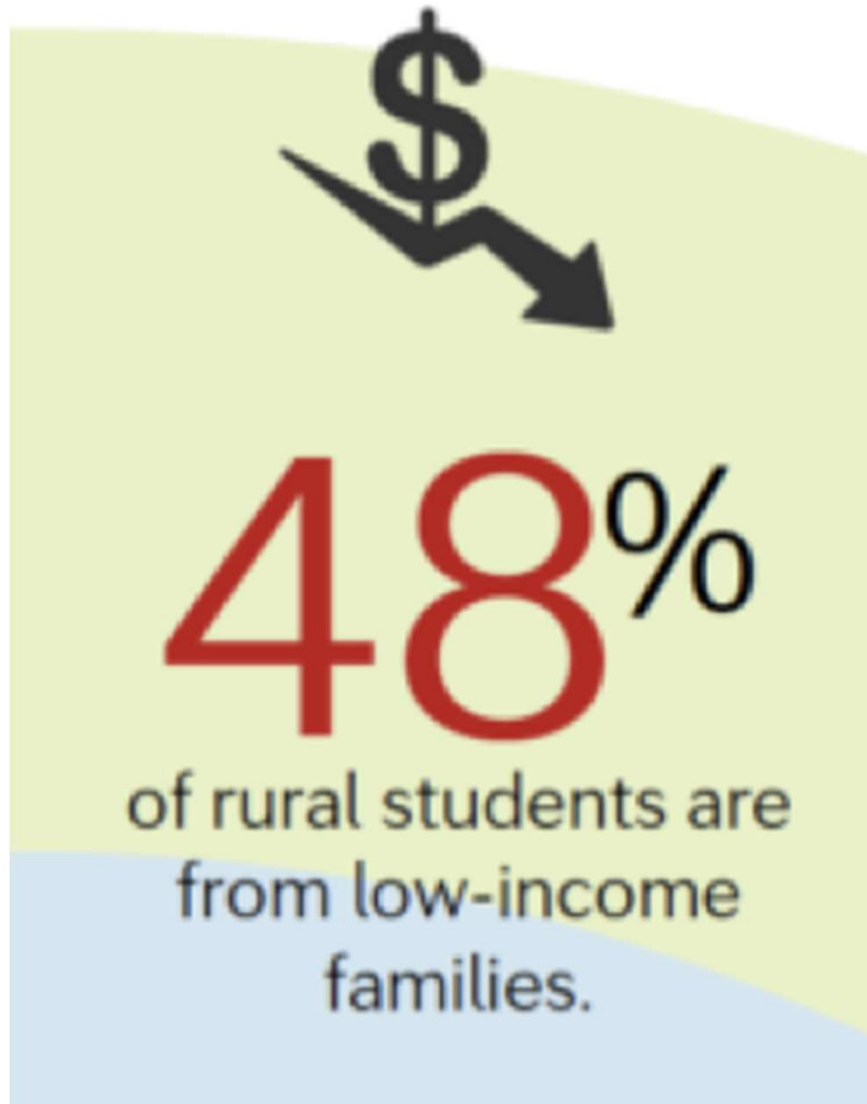


FIGURE 1
The Social Class Worldview



**Rural Areas
+
Poor and
Working
Class
Identities**

Salvaging Education in Rural America

Rural towns struggle with widespread poverty, limited opportunity, and low college-attendance rates. What role do schools play in improving the quality of life?

RACHEL MARTIN

JAN 5, 2016

EDUCATION

(The Atlantic)

neaToday

ARTICLES

SCHOOL ME

MORE NEA WEBSITES



Search



News and Features from the National Education Association

Who's Looking Out for Rural Schools?

Rural schools - and the 9 million students they serve - stand to lose big from the Trump-DeVos privatization agenda.

— SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 • BY TIM WALKER —

The Rural Higher-Education Crisis

When it comes to college enrollment, students in Middle America—many of them white—face an uphill battle against economic and cultural deterrents.

JON MARCUS AND MATT KRUPNICK | SEP 27, 2017 | **EDUCATION**

(The Atlantic)

ESSAY

For Colleges, A Rural Reckoning

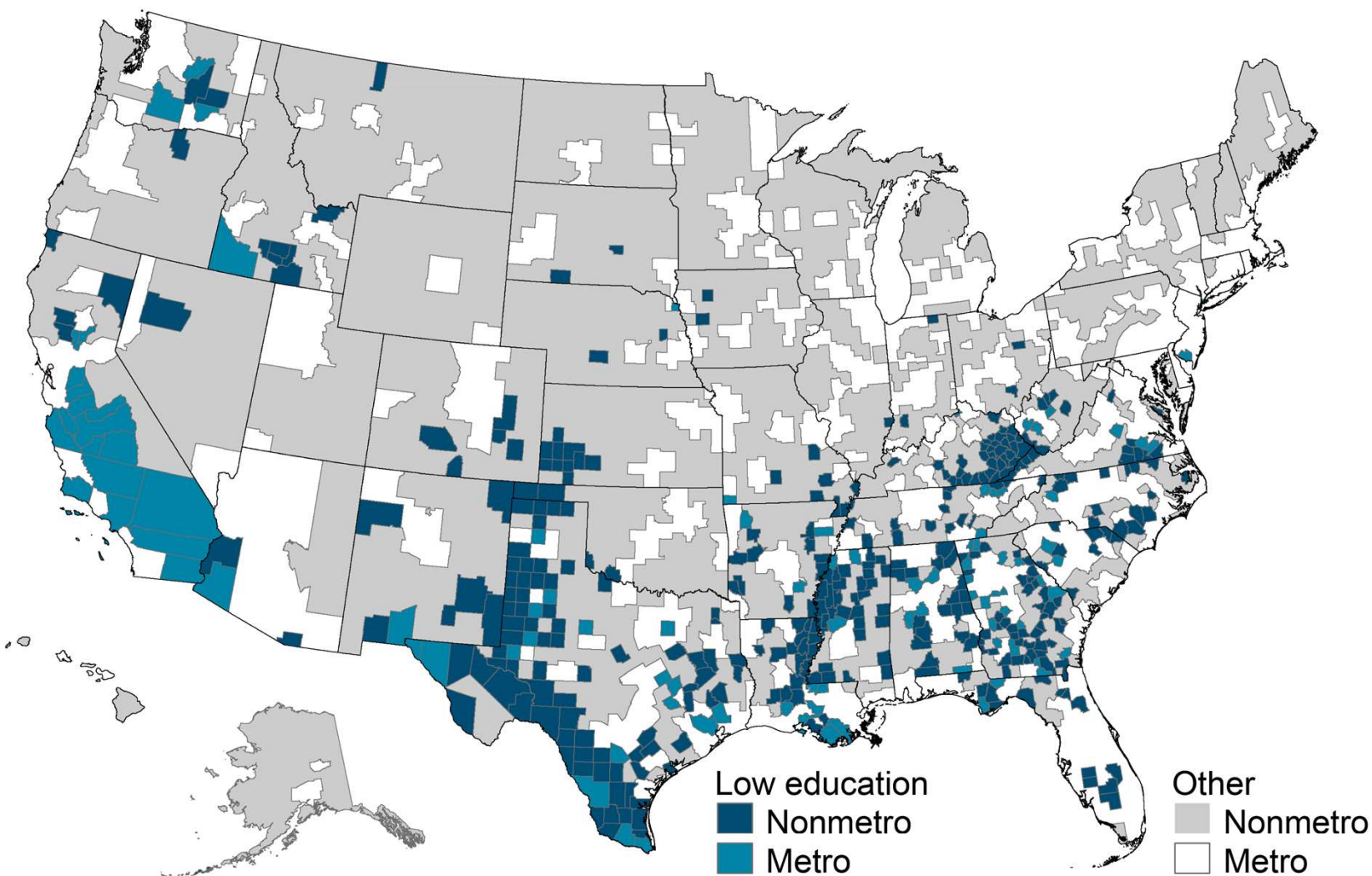
Spooked by rising hostility in Trump country, elite schools are seeking small-town students

By Douglas Belkin

Dec. 1, 2017 3:24 p.m. ET

(The Wall Street Journal)

Low education counties, 2015 edition

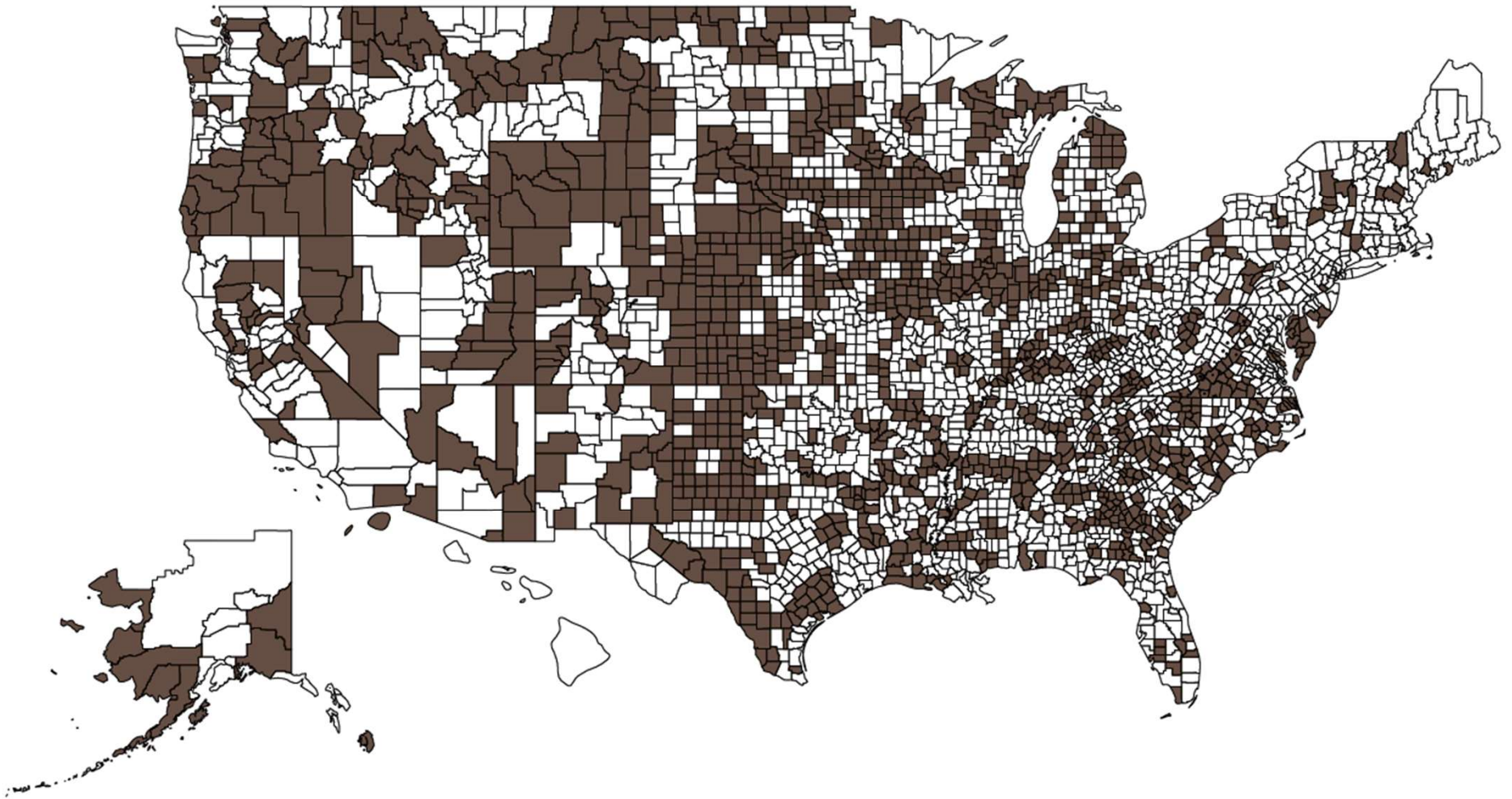


Low education counties are those where 20 percent or more of county residents age 25-64 did not have a high school diploma or equivalent, determined by the American Community Survey 5-year average data for 2008-12.

Note that county boundaries are drawn for the low education counties only.

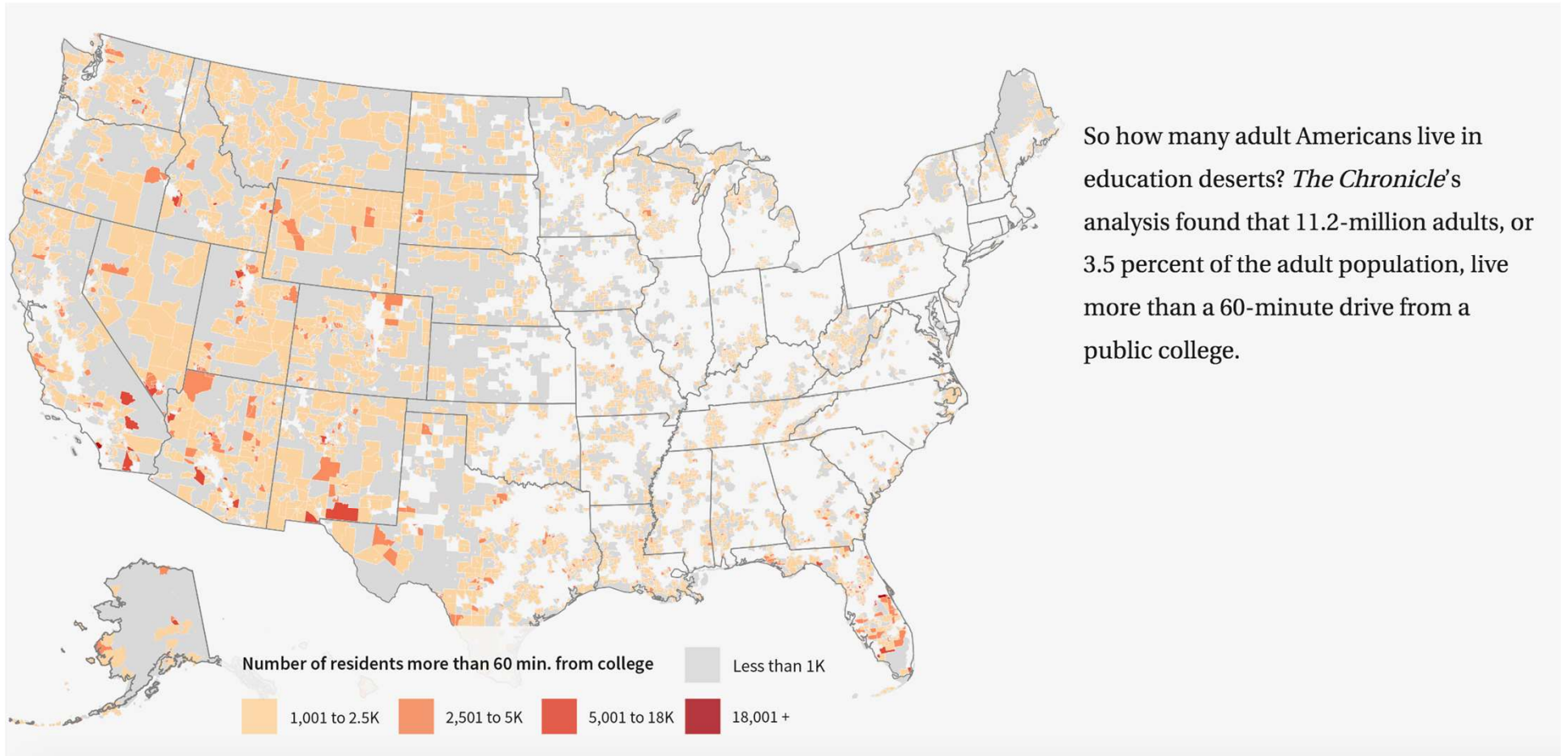
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Census Bureau.

Figure 5: All Education Deserts (Metropolitan, Micropolitan, or Commuting Zones) by Geographic Region



(Hillman & Weichman, 2016, p. 8)

Chronicle of Higher Education (Myers, 2018)



61%

of rural high school graduates go on to college immediately after high school.

(National Student Clearinghouse, 2017)

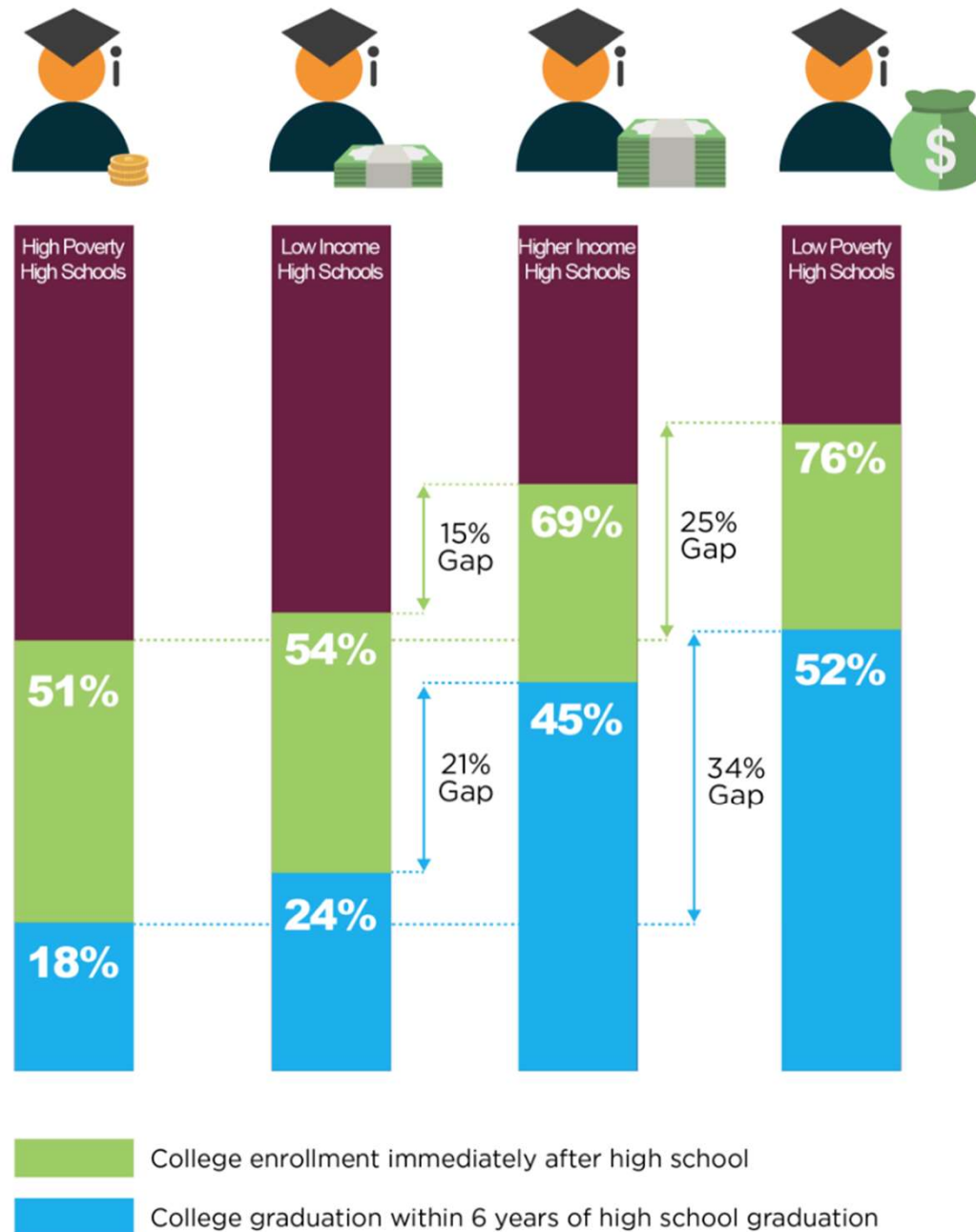
29%

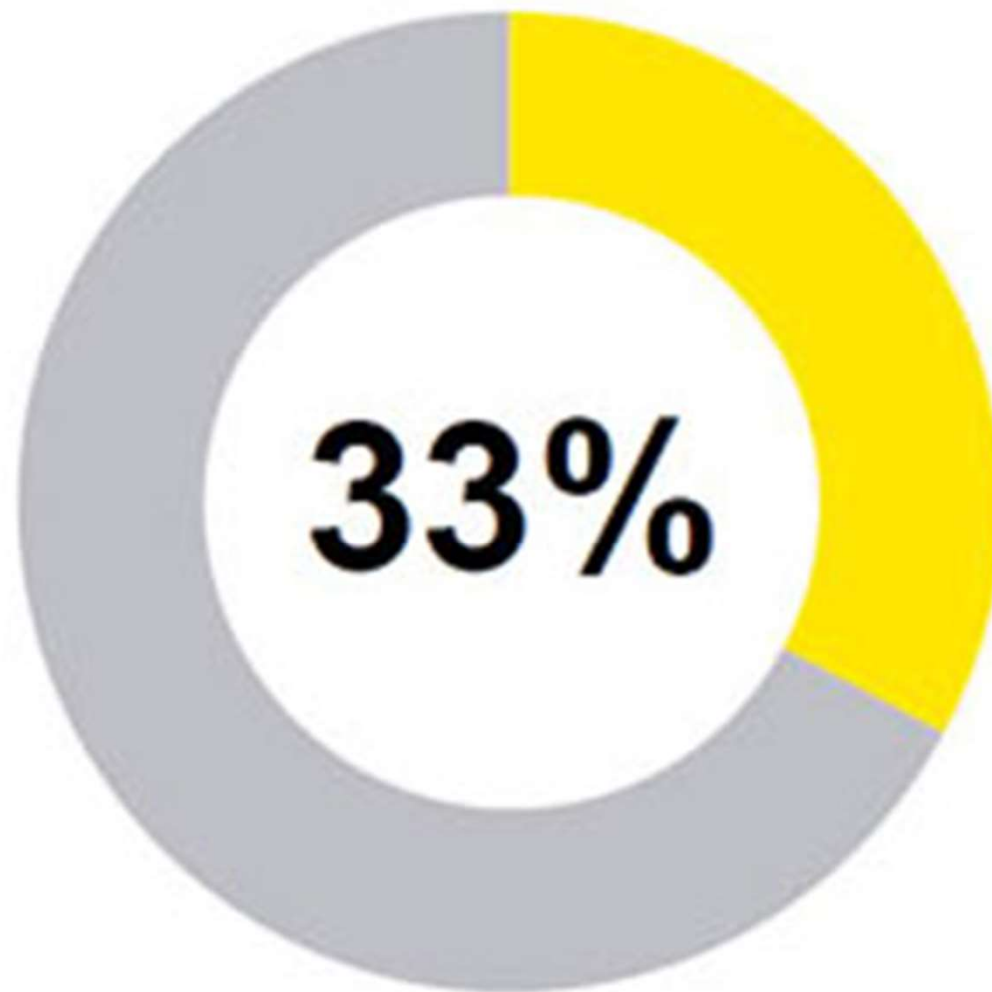
of college students are from rural areas.

(National Center for Education Statistics, 2015)

(National Student Clearinghouse, 2016)

Income





**of college students are eligible for Pell-grants,
indicating their poor or working class identity.**

(National Center for Education Statistics, 2017)

INFO



culture

We still have a lot of kids who are the first people in their family to graduate high school. **Education in a lot of the families is not a priority.** In some, it is, but for a lot, it's not ... a lot of the kids do go straight to work.

-High School Counselor #2

They think I should [go to college], but if I don't want to and I want to go straight to work, they'd be all right with it.

-Student

“More Trouble Than It's Worth or a Path to a ‘Better Life’?": Rural Attitudes About College

Systemic Challenges





It's too many expectations, especially with the number of high school students that we have. Before consolidation [in 2004] we didn't have the computer work and paperwork that we have today. Now it's just more and more and more.

–High School Counselor #1

I am a full-time high school counselor but they only have a part-time junior high counselor so Tuesdays and Thursdays, I'm the counselor for the whole student body of 800 kids.

–High School Counselor #2

“I Have More to Do Than I Can Possibly Do Well”: Rural Counselors' Challenges with College Counseling

School Challenges

EDUCATION LIFE

Colleges Discover the Rural Student

By LAURA PAPPANO JAN. 31, 2017



side-eye

noun **US** informal

a sidelong glance expressing disapproval or contempt.

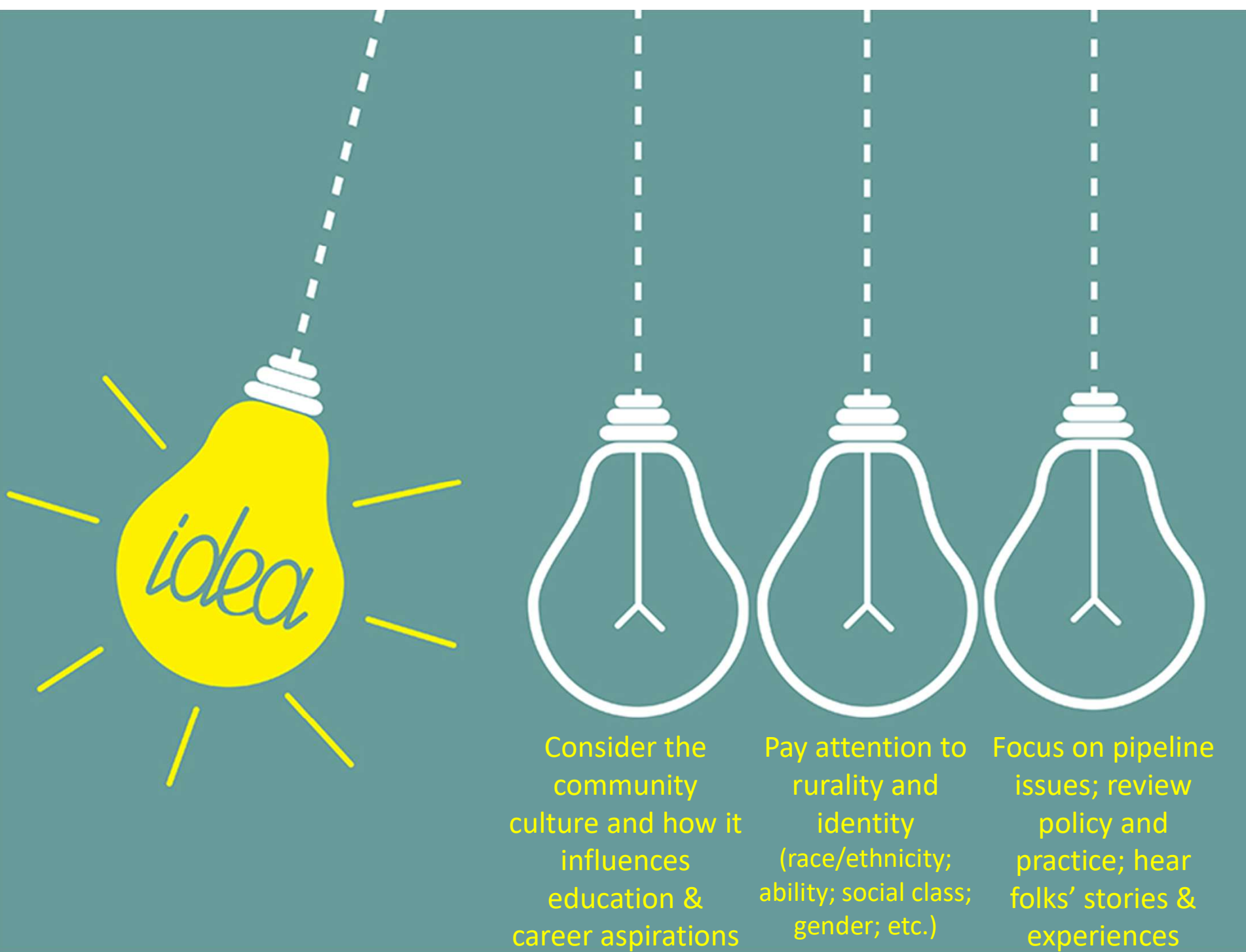
"after we complained of being ignored she kept **giving me the side-eye**"

practice.

Assistance for Counselors & Communities

Valuing & Furthering Students' Forms of Capital

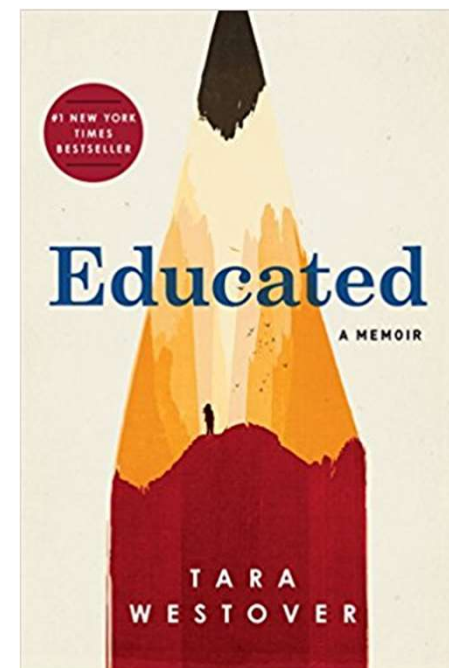
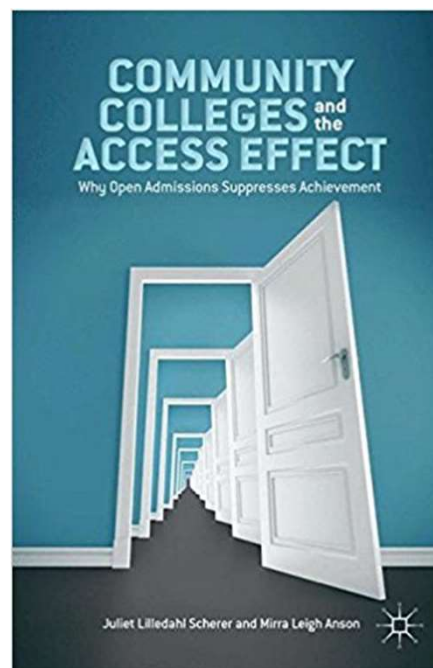
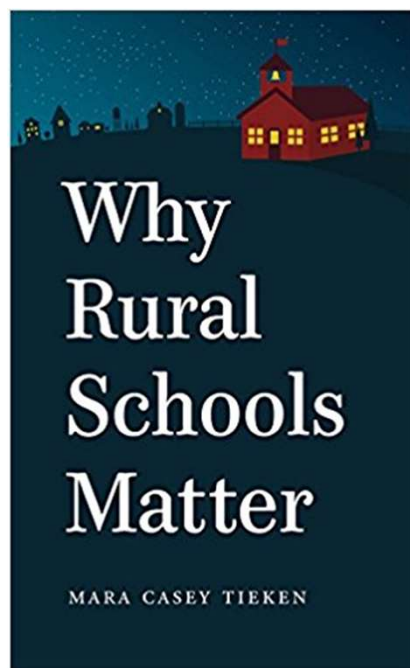
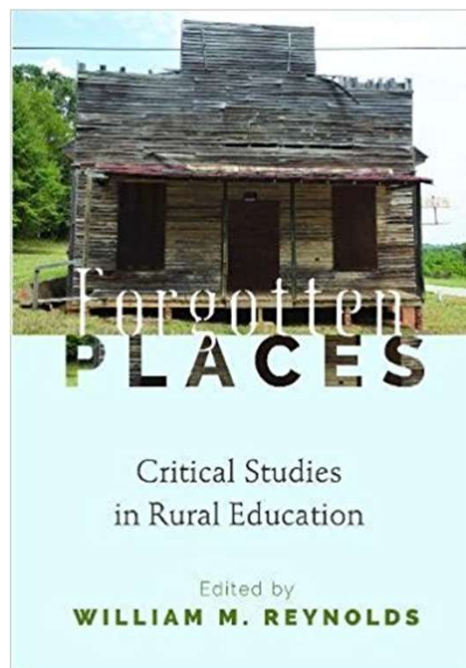
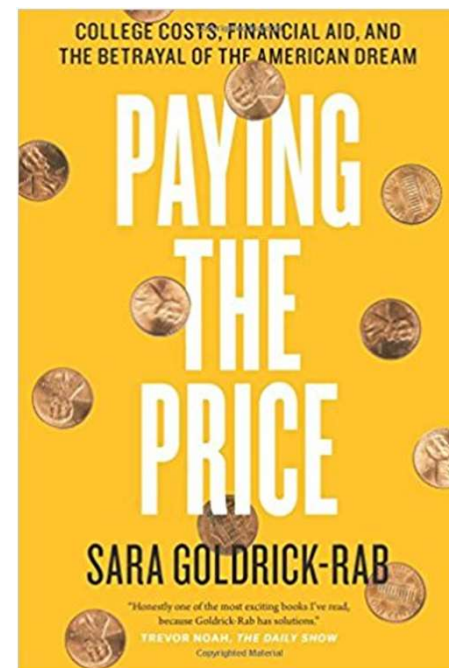
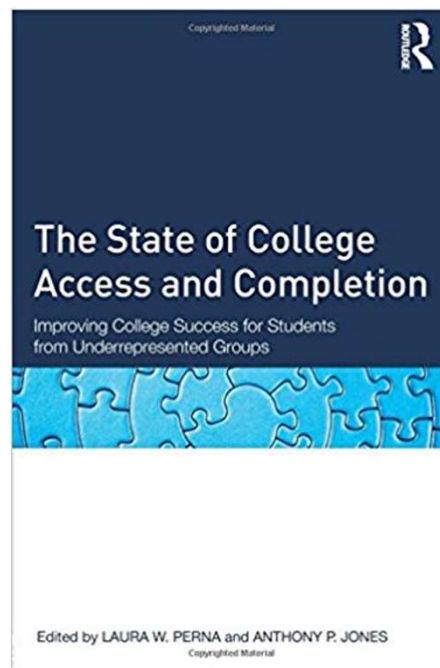
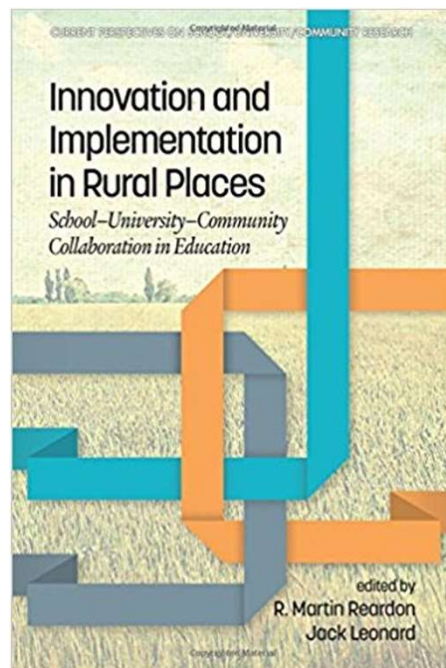
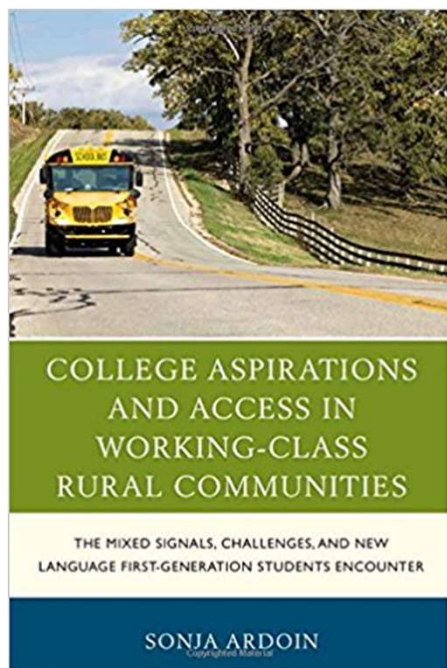
Increasing Targeted University Recruitment & Support



Consider the community culture and how it influences education & career aspirations

Pay attention to rurality and identity (race/ethnicity; ability; social class; gender; etc.)

Focus on pipeline issues; review policy and practice; hear folks' stories & experiences





Sonja Ardoin, Ph.D.



sonjaardoin@gmail.com



[@SonjaArdoin](https://twitter.com/SonjaArdoin)



www.sonjaardoin.com