



# EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: WHO GETS HOPE?



This presentation was developed in 2017 by Jennifer Lee and based on the report by Claire Suggs, “Troubling Gaps in HOPE Point to Need-Based Aid Solutions.” Read the full report with source endnotes at [www.gbpi.org](http://www.gbpi.org).

# WHO WE ARE

Nonpartisan, nonprofit state policy research

Promoting broad economic opportunity

Focus on state budget, taxes, education,  
health, safety net, jobs



# HIGHER EDUCATION IS GOOD FOR STUDENTS, AND CRITICAL FOR GEORGIA'S FUTURE



Higher income



Lower unemployment rates



Improves financial strength and stability

By 2020...

**60%** of jobs will require  
postsecondary ed

**32%**  
will require at least a bachelor's.

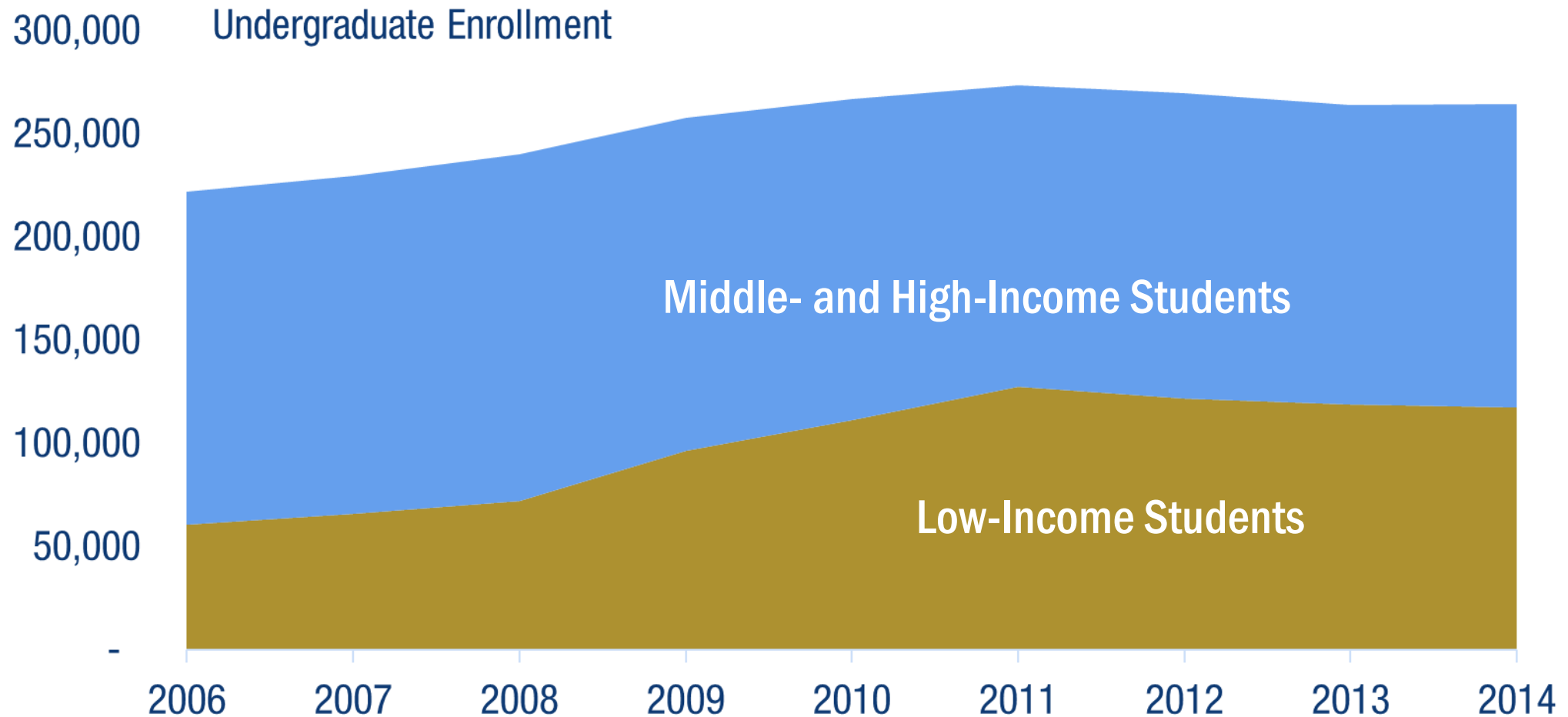


A large crowd of graduates in caps and gowns celebrating at a commencement ceremony. The graduates are raising their hands and cheering. The background shows a large stadium or arena with many rows of seating.

# **COMPLETE COLLEGE GEORGIA**

***Goal:* Increase postsecondary school graduates by 250,000 by year 2025**

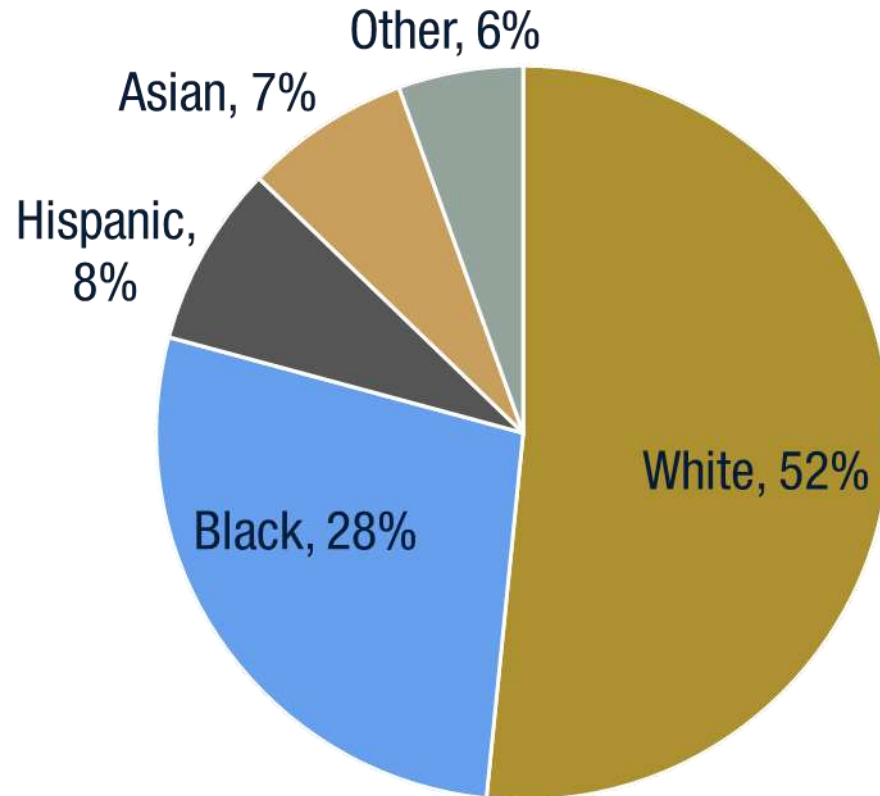
# RACIAL & ECONOMIC EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION IS CRITICAL TO GEORGIA'S SUCCESS



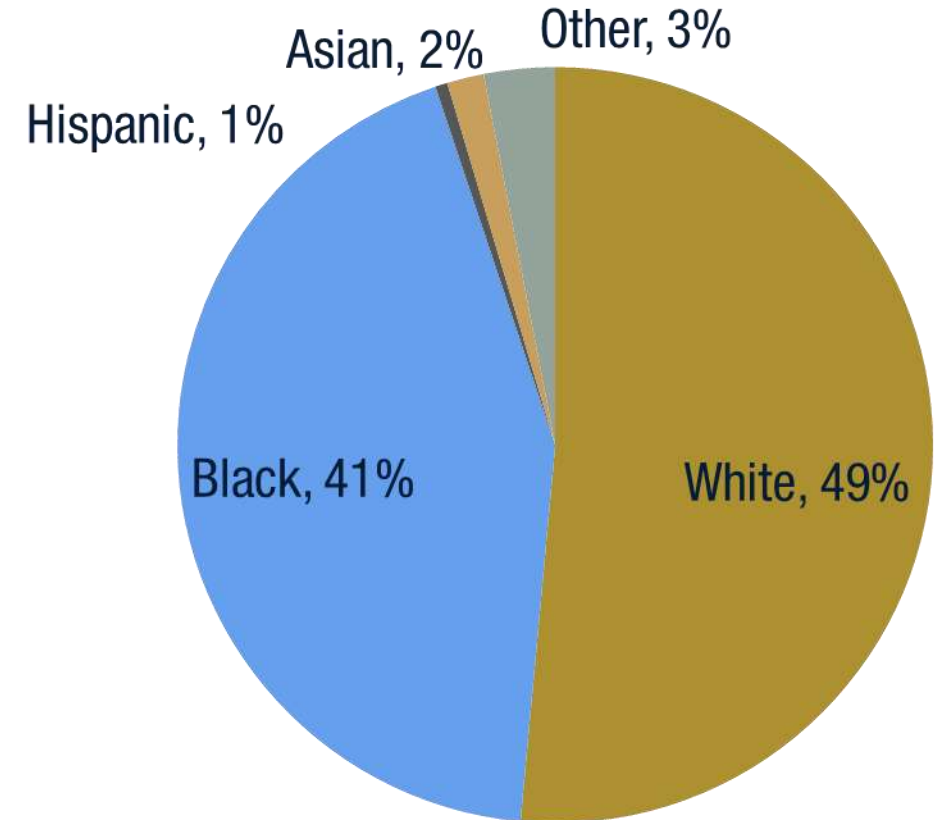
*Data for University System of Georgia. "Low-Income Students" are receiving Pell Grant.*

# RACIAL & ECONOMIC EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION IS CRITICAL TO GEORGIA'S SUCCESS

University System Enrollment, 2015



Technical College System, Fall 2013



# THE “TYPICAL” GEORGIA PUBLIC COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

- 50 institutions
- Not just bachelor's degrees
- 29% Part-Time Enrollment





# THE “TYPICAL” GEORGIA PUBLIC COLLEGE STUDENT



Gender	Avg Age (Undergrad)	Race/Ethnicity
69% Female, 31% Male	26	5% Hispanic, 6% Asian, 61% Black, 21% White
31% Male, 69% Female	20	7% Hispanic, 33% Asian, 6% Black, 48% White



# WHO PAYS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION?

State investment down, tuition and fees up



TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
**TCSG**  
SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

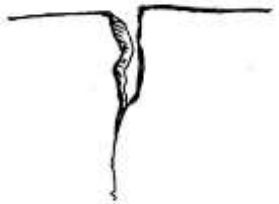
# WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?



**Reduces college access**



**Makes it more difficult to complete a degree**



**Weakens financial security post-college**

# HOPE PROGRAMS

Bachelors and Associates Degrees University System*		Diplomas and Certificates Technical College System*	
<b><u>HOPE Scholarship</u></b>	<b>Zell Miller Scholarship</b>	<b><u>HOPE Grant</u></b>	<b>Zell Miller Grant</b>
<i>Partial Tuition</i>	<i>Full tuition</i>	<i>Partial Tuition</i>	<i>Full Tuition</i>

\*Small number (~2,000) of HOPE scholarships used at technical colleges for associates degrees.

# HOPE PROGRAMS

Bachelors and Associates Degrees University System*		Diplomas and Certificates Technical College System*	
HOPE <u>Scholarship</u>	Zell Miller Scholarship	HOPE <u>Grant</u>	Zell Miller Grant
<b><i>3.0 GPA + 4 rigorous courses</i></b>	<b><i>3.7 GPA + 4 rigorous courses + 1,200 SAT/26 ACT</i></b>	<b><i>2.0 GPA</i></b>	<b><i>3.5 GPA</i></b>

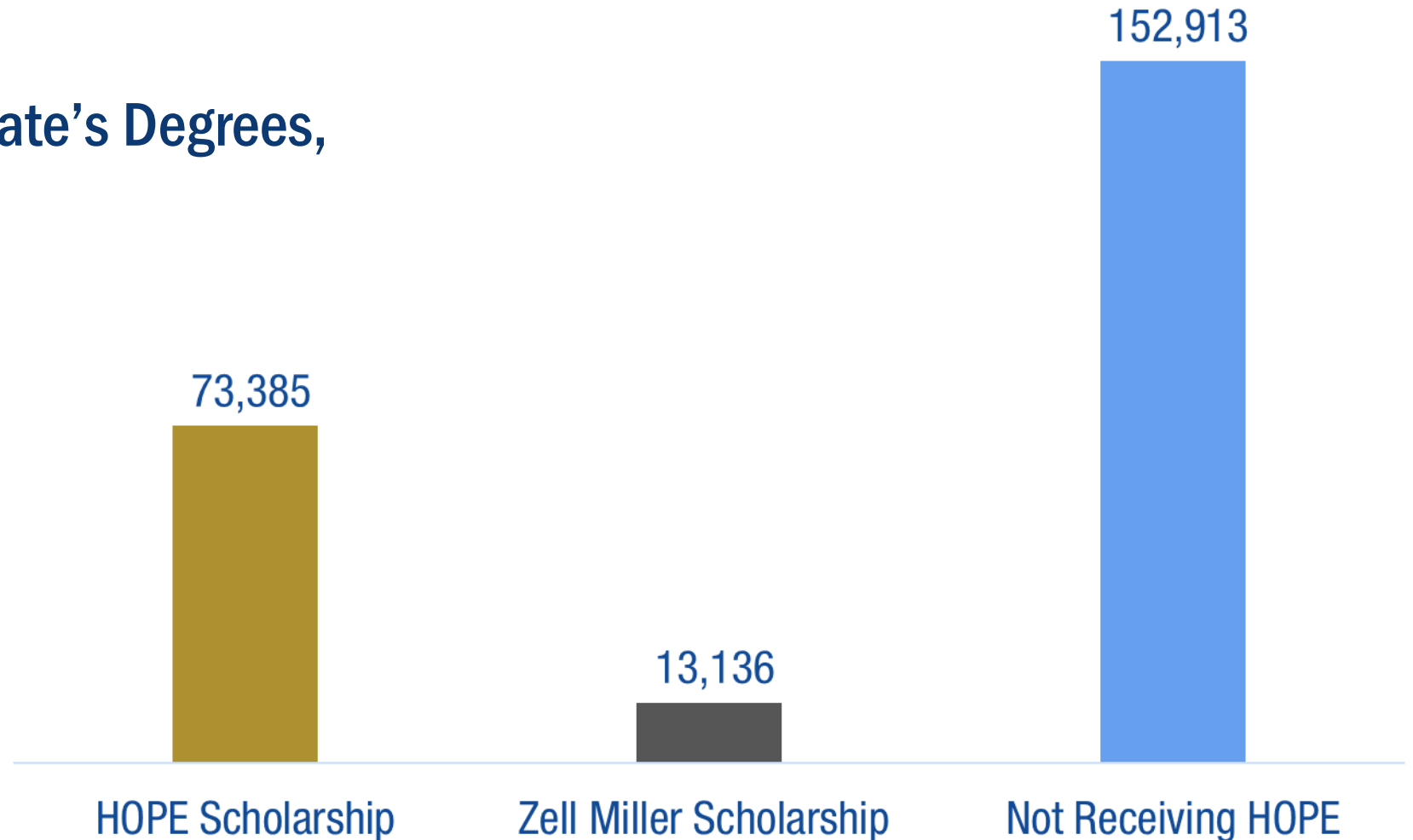
\*Small number (~2,000) of HOPE scholarships used at technical colleges for associates degrees.



# Most students don't receive HOPE Scholarships

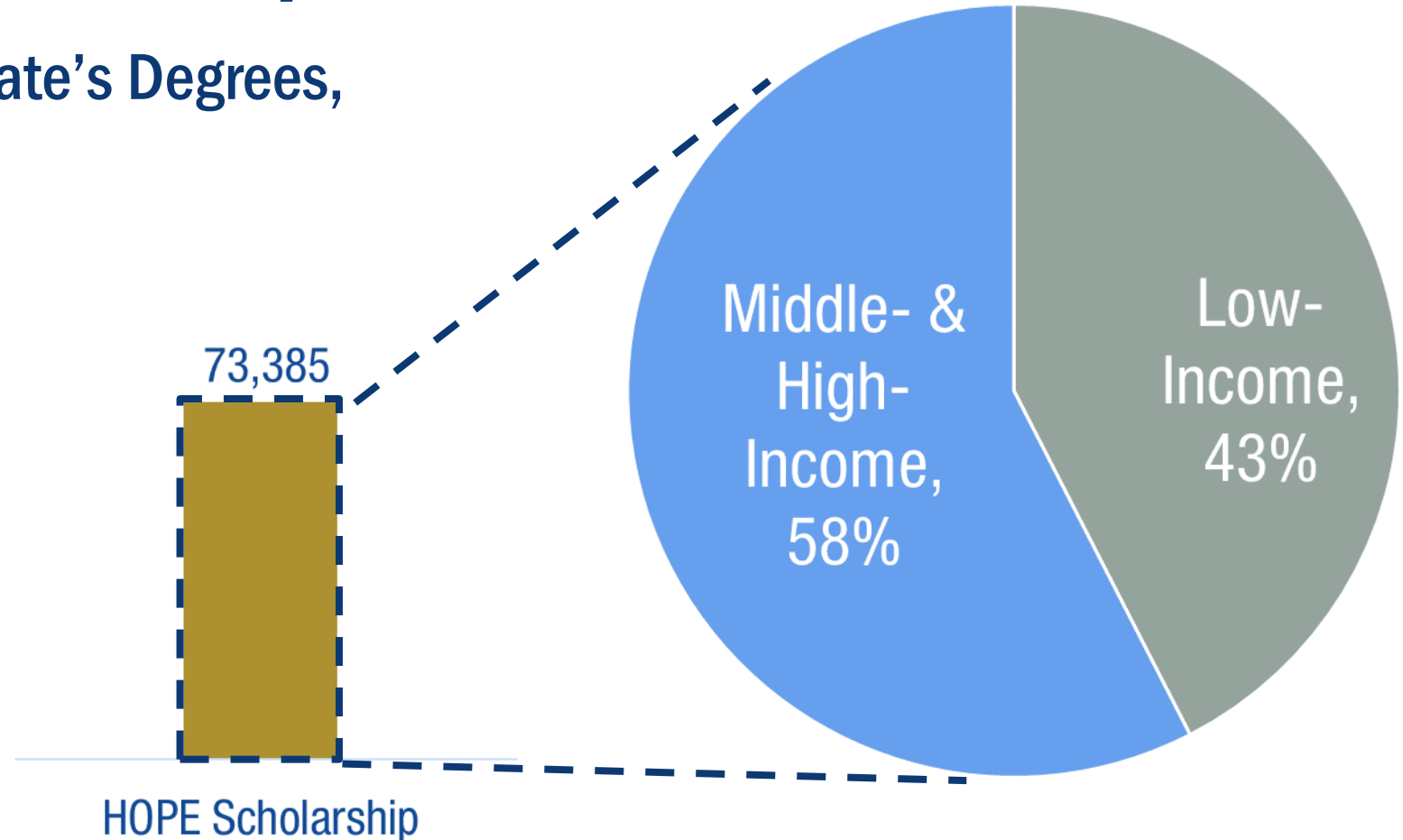
Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees,  
University System

\*Small number (~2,000) of HOPE scholarships used at technical colleges for associates degrees.



# Middle- and high-income students more likely to receive HOPE Scholarships

Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees,  
University System



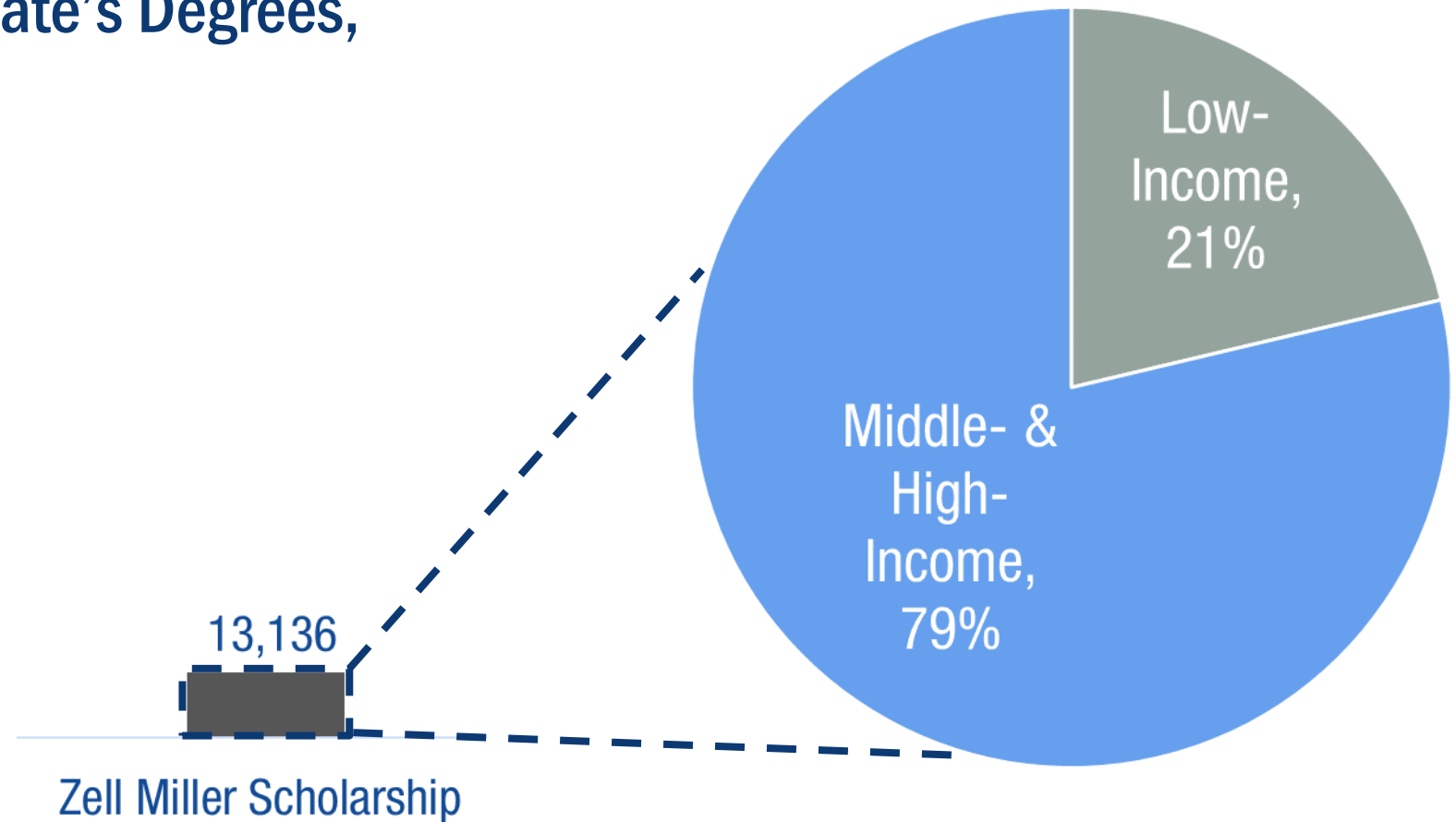
\*Small number (~2,000) of HOPE scholarships used at technical colleges for associates degrees.

*Data from Fall 2013. "Low-income" students are receiving Pell Grant.*

# Middle- and high-income students much more likely to receive Zell Miller Scholarships

Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees,  
University System

\*Small number (~20) of Zell Miller scholarships used at technical colleges for associates degrees.



*Data from Fall 2013. "Low-Income" students are receiving Pell Grant.*

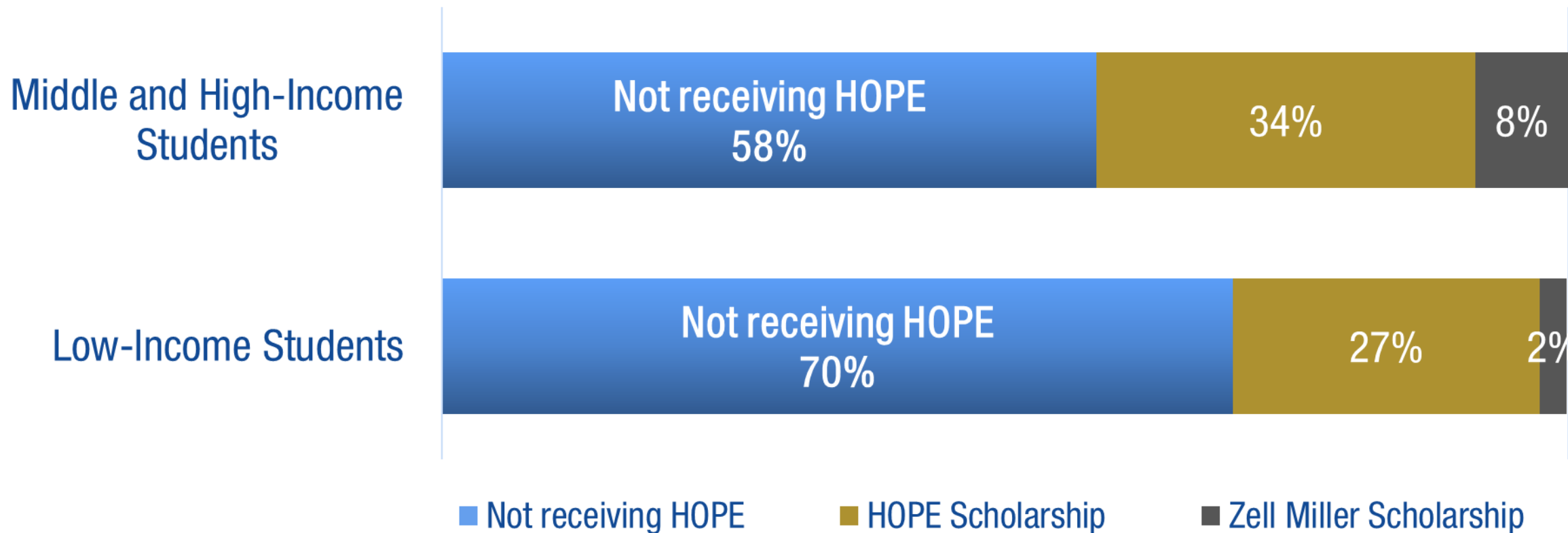
# HIGH LEVEL OF UNMET STUDENT FINANCIAL NEED

**112,256 students**  
**\$808 million**



# STUDENTS ACROSS INCOME DO NOT RECEIVE HOPE, LOW-INCOME STUDENTS LESS LIKELY

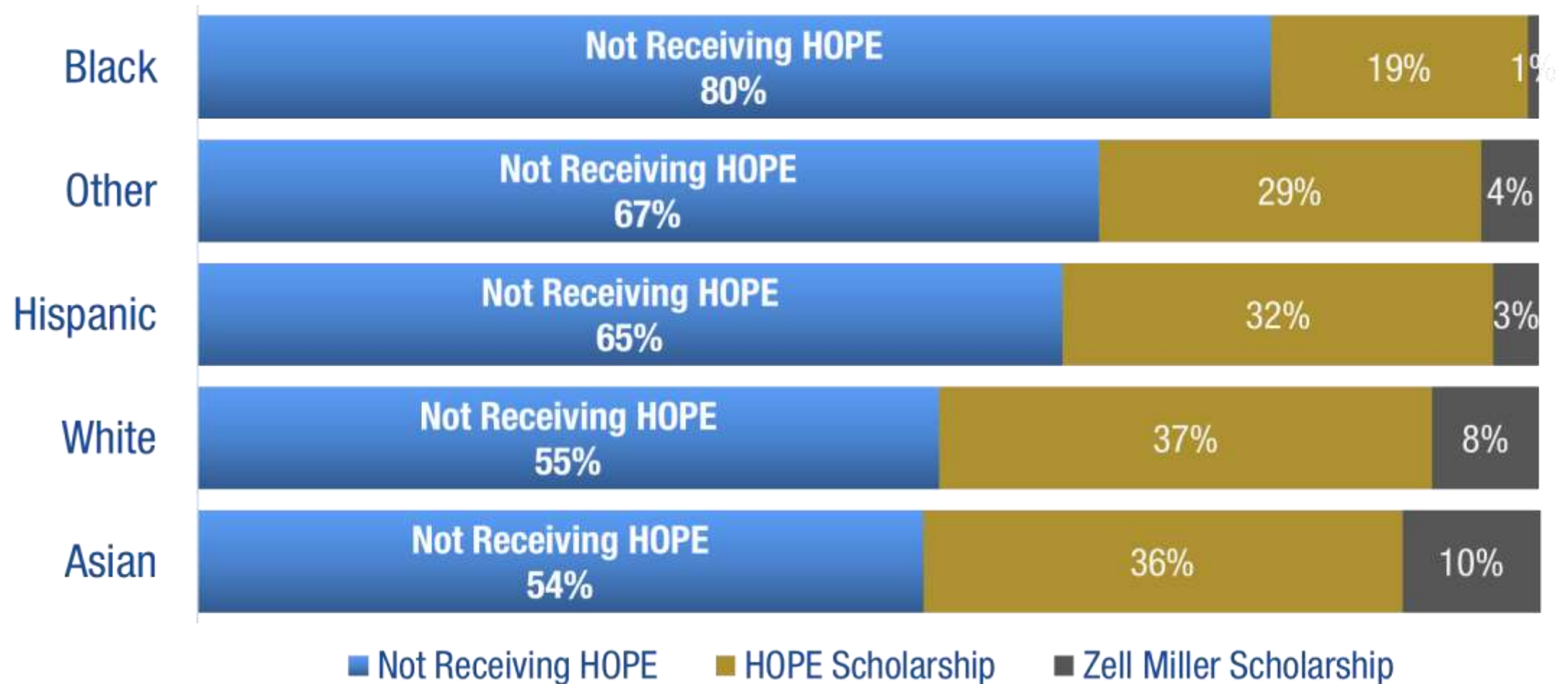
Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees, University System



*Data from Fall 2013. "Low-Income Students" are receiving Pell Grant.*

# STUDENTS ACROSS RACE/ETHNICITY DO NOT RECEIVE HOPE, BLACK STUDENTS LEAST LIKELY

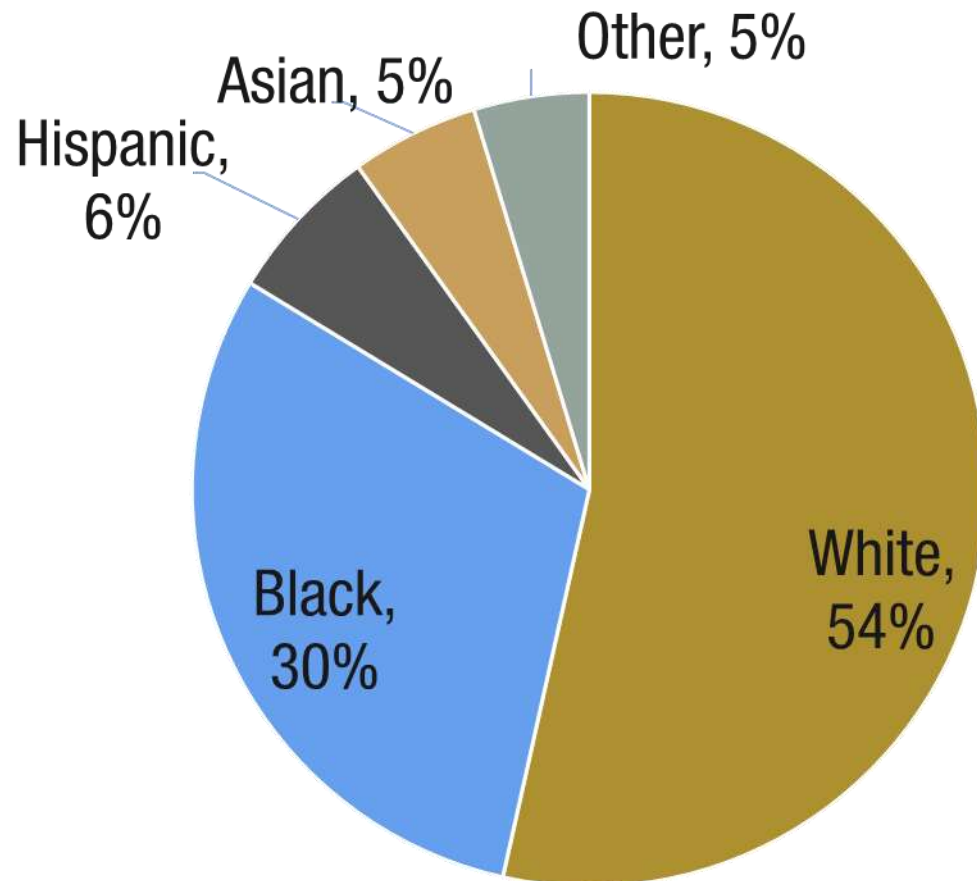
Bachelor's and Associate's Degrees, University System



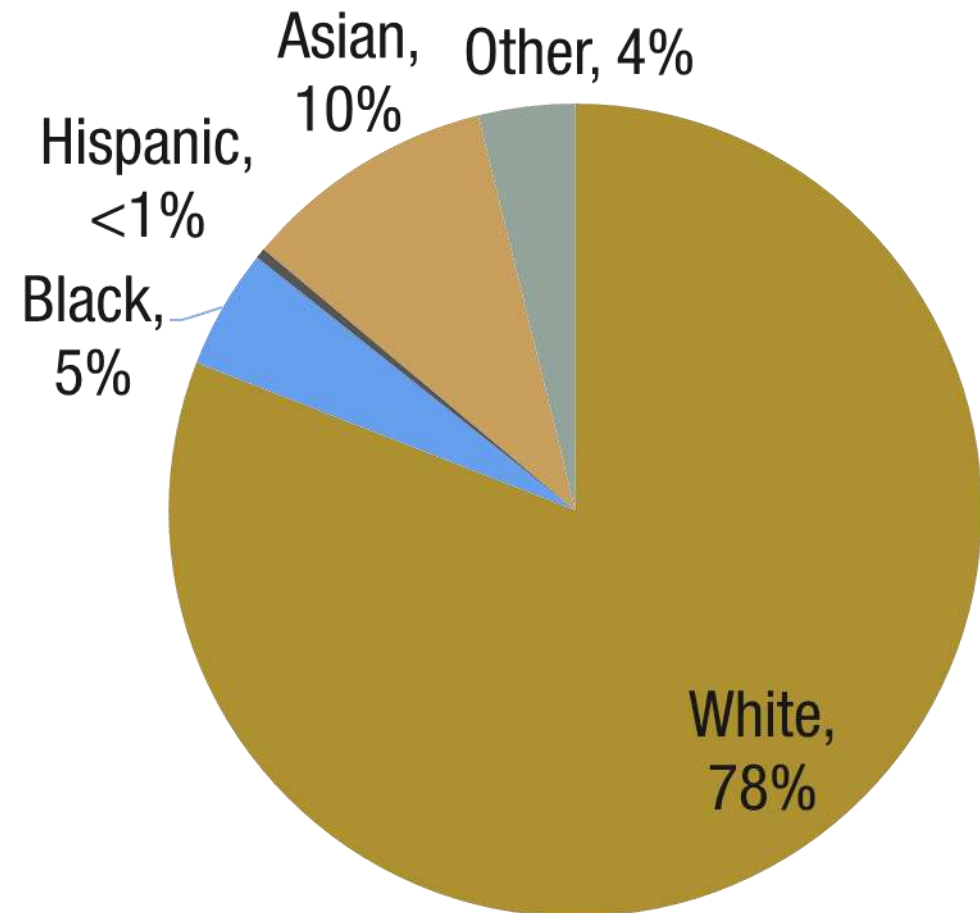
*Data from Fall 2013*

# BLACK STUDENTS UNDERREPRESENTED IN ZELL MILLER SCHOLARS

University Enrollment



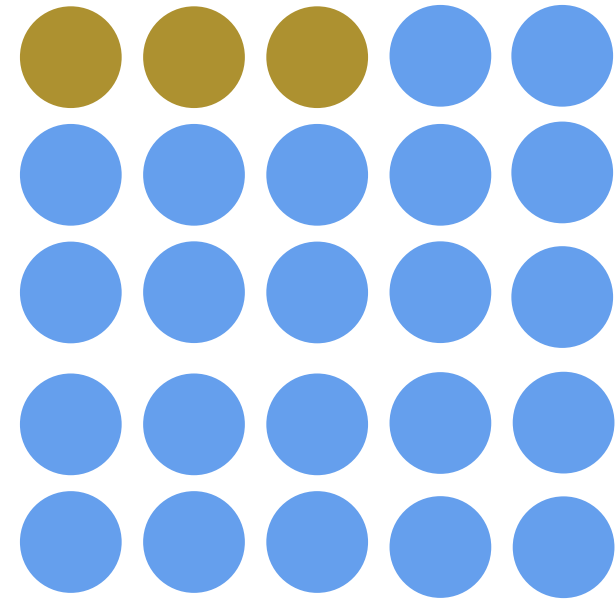
Zell Miller Scholars



# 7-YEAR POST-HIGH SCHOOL TIME LIMIT RESTRICTS HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

Potentially ineligible:

- 12% of undergrads in university system (age 25+)

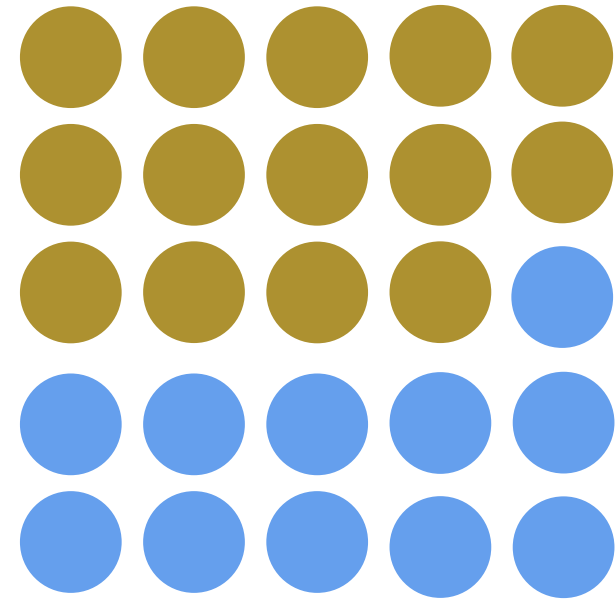




# 7-YEAR POST-HIGH SCHOOL TIME LIMIT RESTRICTS HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

Potentially ineligible:

- 60% of associate degree students in technical colleges (age 24+)

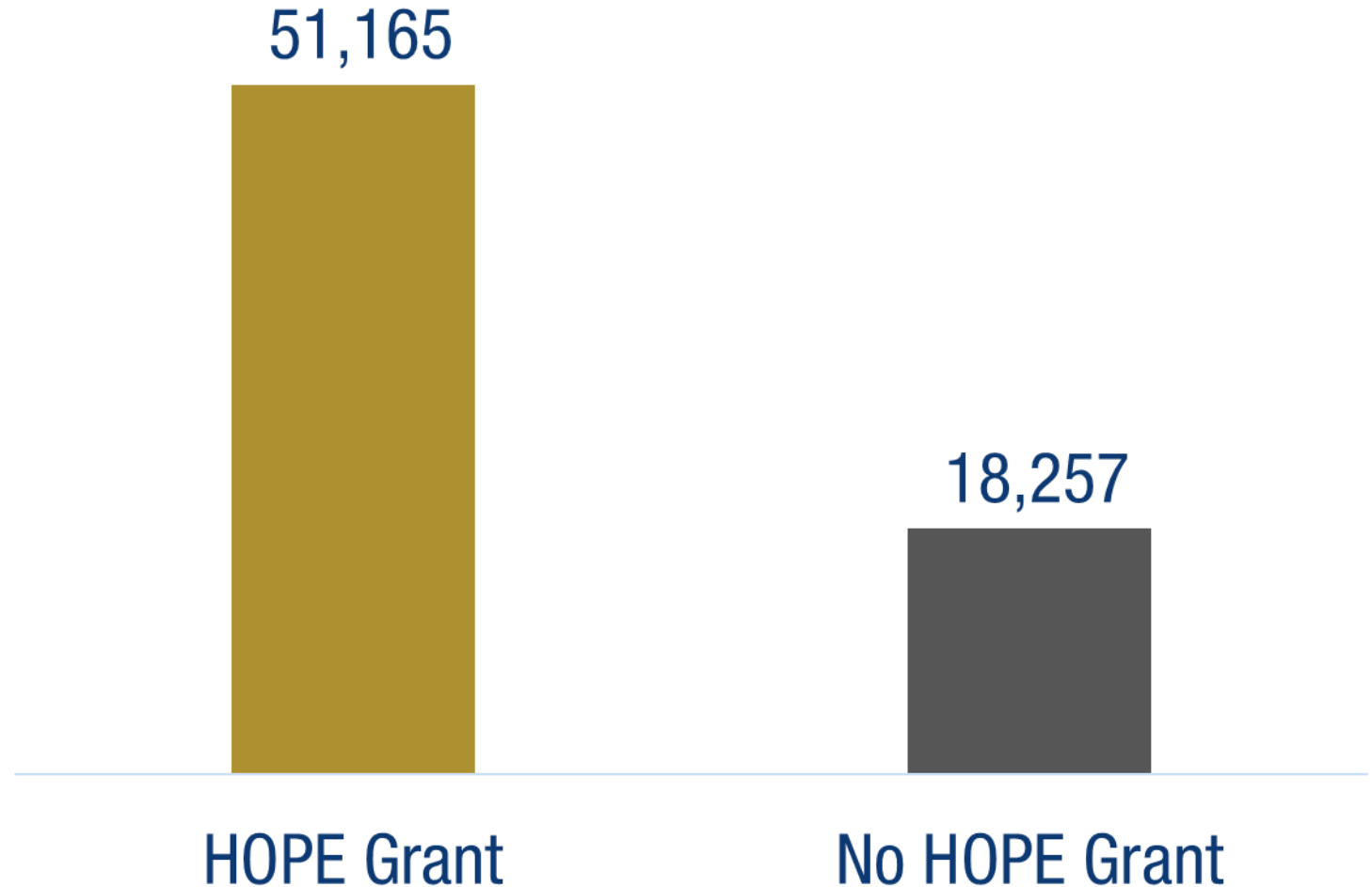


# WHO GETS HOPE?

- Most students do not receive HOPE
- Less likely to receive HOPE: low-income students, Black students
- 60% of associate's degree student may be ineligible

# MOST STUDENTS IN CERTIFICATE & DIPLOMA PROGRAMS RECEIVE HOPE GRANT

Certificates and Diplomas,  
Technical College System



# WHO RECEIVES HOPE GRANT?

Certificates and Diplomas,  
Technical College System

- ✓ 85% of low-income students
- ✓ Majority of students in all age groups
- ✓ Racial/ethnic makeup mirrors total technical college enrollment

# HOPE GRANT TIMELINE

HOPE Grant  
created

Legislature cuts  
HOPE Grant, raises  
GPA requirements

2011

Legislatures  
resets GPA  
requirements,  
keeps cuts

2013

Legislature  
creates Zell  
Miller Grant

2014



# RECENT CHANGES TO HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

**2011:**

**Legislature reduces HOPE Scholarship award.**

Creates separate Zell Miller Scholarship with higher GPA + SAT/ACT requirement

Added HOPE requirement:

**3.0 GPA +**

**4 “rigorous courses”**

(AP, IB, other advanced courses)

**IS HOPE  
ENOUGH?**

# **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ☐ **Restore HOPE Grant to full tuition and fees for technical colleges.**
- ☐ **Eliminate time limit on HOPE Scholarship.**
- ☐ **Create a state aid program that takes into account students' and families' financial need.**

The “college-for-all” movement in the U.S. has succeeded in broadening opportunities for all kinds of people. It’s amazing that people who grew up homeless find their way to college today. What’s not amazing is our inability to revise the American financing system of higher education to match those desires and expectations.

*- Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab  
Professor of Higher Education Policy and Sociology, Temple University*

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO STAY INVOLVED,  
SIGN UP FOR GBPI’S EMAIL LIST  
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