## NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE RESEARCH CENTER

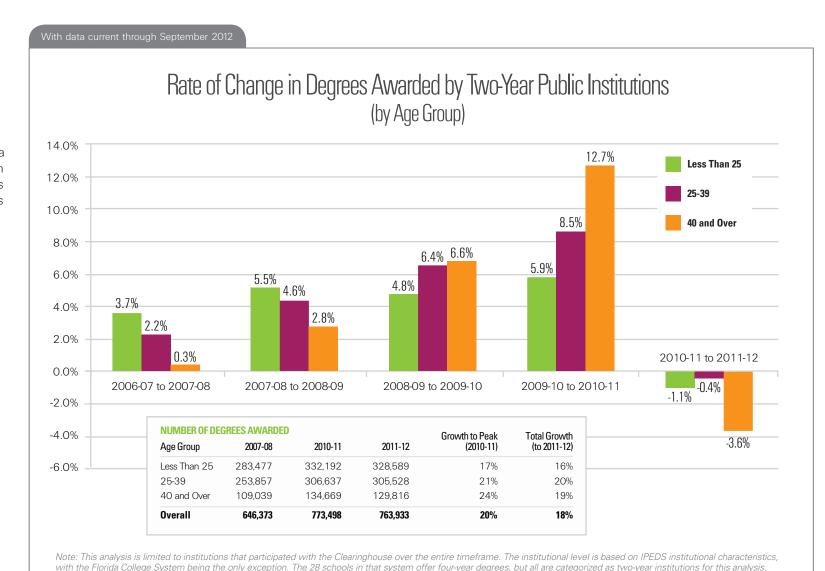


## Back to School

In its first Signature Report, "National Postsecondary Enrollment Trends: Before, During, and After the Great Recession," the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center documented a period of accelerated growth in community college enrollments that peaked in 2009-10. In this follow-up analysis, we see that the enrollment increases were followed by a corresponding increase in the number of degrees awarded through 2010-11.

Growth in the number of degrees awarded to adult learners outpaced that of traditional-age students in the three years following the economic downturn. From 2007-08 to 2010-11, the number of degrees awarded to students aged 25 and older increased by 22 percent, compared to 17 percent for those under age 25.

The number of degrees awarded to each age group decreased in 2011-12, but totals remained well above pre-recession levels.



This is in keeping with their traditional role as a primary point of access to higher education.