Oscar wins: ‘Green Book’ for best picture, ‘Roma’ for director

Digital ad spending forecast to top TV print, this year

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The Seattle Times

$1.50

Seattle tops nation in percentage with college degree

Gene Balk / PFT Guy

Seattle Times staff

Americans are more educated now than they’ve ever been in history.

A report released last week by the U.S. Census Bureau shows 35 percent of Americans age 25 and older have completed a bachelor’s degree—that’s nearly the percentage that had completed high school in 1950. And the number of folks who hold an advanced degree has doubled since 2000.

Even in the context of this extraordinary education boom, Seattle stands out. While we have long been considered a highly educated city, the number of city residents who have completed a college degree is now higher than we’ve ever seen.

At 37 percent, the percentage of city residents age 25 and older who hold a four-year college degree is the highest it has ever been in this region and is in the top 20 percent across the nation.

For the city’s senior residents, the majority of adults have a college degree. The reverse is true for younger Seattleites. In 2000, less than half (47 percent) here had a college degree. In 2016, the percentage was up to 58 percent.

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When you look at education success across the country, the rise in the number of folks who hold an advanced degree is astounding. Along with Seattle and Portland, other leading cities include Washington, D.C., Raleigh, North Carolina; Austin, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia, and Minneapolis. Portland is right at 30 percent.

At the other end of the spectrum, a mere 15 percent of Detroit adults have a college degree.