

# Retaining America's Intellectual Capital



NAGPS Legislative  
Concerns Committee

We urge you to support a bipartisan approach to increase the number of visas and green cards available to non-US born graduate and professional students

## Highly-Educated Foreign Nationals Improve the U.S. Economy

- Greatly increase technology innovation, measured by number of patents, according to research by the World Bank [1]
- Increase U.S. job growth — for each H-1B visa request, U.S. technology companies employ five additional people [2]
- Help American companies retain leadership in high-technology sectors by recruiting global technical talent

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U.S. technology companies hire five additional people for each H-1B visa [2]

## Negative Impact from Limitations on Foreign STEM Workers in the U.S.

- U.S. companies move operations to other countries in order to meet high-skilled labor demands
- The H-1B visa cap has been reached every year since 2004, while the cap on Green Cards has led to decade long waiting times for skilled immigrants [5]
- Denial of highly skilled H1-B visa applicants; in 2008, the USCIS received more than 163,000 applications for the available 65,000 H-1B visas in five days, including 31,200 applications for only 20,000 advanced-degree visas [6]

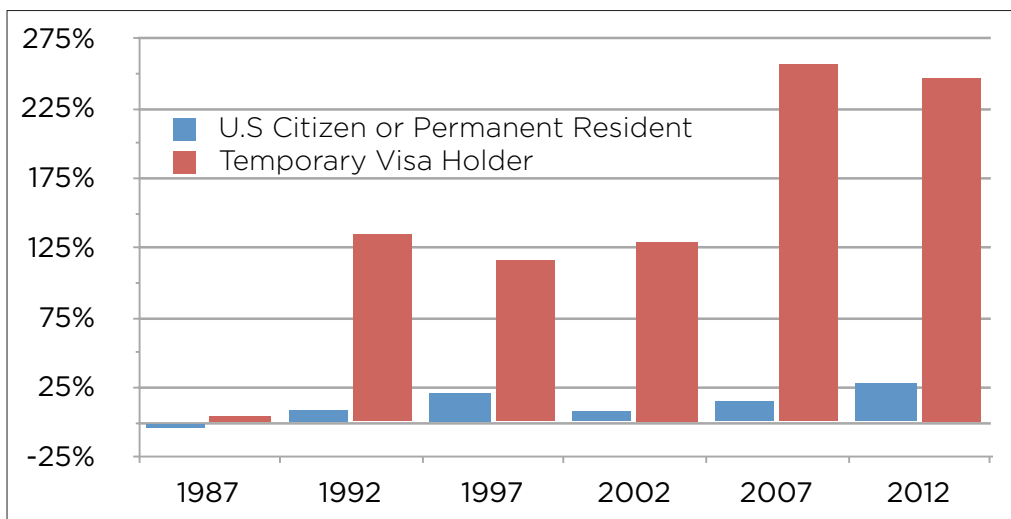
76%

of patents from America's top 10 patent-generating universities in 2011 had a foreign-born inventor [3]

99%

of these patents (from above) are in STEM fields [3]

## Growth of Foreign Nationals Earning Doctoral Degrees since 1982



36%

of all science and engineering degrees in 2011 were awarded to foreign nationals [3]

Data Source: National Science Foundation [nsf.gov/statistics/sed/](http://nsf.gov/statistics/sed/)

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## References

- [1] "The Contribution of Skilled Immigration and International Graduate Students to U.S. Innovation." World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3588, May 2005.  
[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2005/05/15/000090341\\_20050515125129/Rendered/PDF/wps3588.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2005/05/15/000090341_20050515125129/Rendered/PDF/wps3588.pdf)
- [2] "H-1B Visas and Job Creation." National Foundation for American Policy. NFAP Policy Brief, March 2008  
<http://www.nfap.com/pdf/080311h1b.pdf>
- [3] "Patent Pending: How Immigrants Are Reinventing The American Economy," Partnership for new American Economy  
<http://www.renewoureconomy.org/patent-pending>
- [4] "Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities: 2011." National Science Foundation. December, 2012.  
<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/sed/digest/2011/theme1.cfm#2>
- [5] "Employment-Based Green Card Projections Point to Decade-Long Waits." NFAP Study, November 2009  
<http://www.nfap.com/pdf/091117pb.pdf>
- [6] U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. USCIS Releases Preliminary Number Of FY 2009 H-1B Cap Filings. 2008  
<http://www.uscis.gov/archive/archive-news/uscis-releases-preliminary-number-fy-2009-h-1b-cap-filings>

## Links and Resources

"Driving Jobs and Innovation Offshore: The Impact of High-Skill Immigration Restrictions on America." NFAP Policy Brief, December 2007. <http://www.nfap.com/pdf/071206study.pdf>

Susan Hockfield, "Immigrant Scientists Create Jobs and Win Nobels", The Wall Street Journal, Oct 19, 2009