



## Information Technology Industry Council

### **The U.S. Needs High-Skilled Immigration Reform**

Updated: May 13, 2013

- **Immigration is innovation.** Every day that goes by without immigration reform is another day when new jobs and new industries start in foreign countries instead of within American shores.
- **Next-generation industries should be founded in San Jose instead of Shenzhen.** The Congress must seize this moment and approve legislation that will serve to further invigorate our nation's innovative and entrepreneurial leadership. Done right, immigration reform will result in a stronger innovation economy for the U.S., with new industries, new jobs, and new opportunities across the country.
- **America needs an immigration system that ensures our future is one of renewed prosperity.** Congress should take advantage of that momentum and pass an immigration package that strengthens America's economic future.

#### **Skilled immigration = Economic growth.**

- Every additional 100 foreign STEM graduate of a U.S. university with an advanced degree creates another 262 jobs for U.S. natives. [Immigration and American Jobs, Madeleine Zavodny, December 2011.](#)
- Immigrants and their children founded 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies, which collectively generated \$4.2 trillion in revenue in 2010—more than the GDP of every country in the world except the United States, China, and Japan. [The "New American" Fortune 500, PNA, June 2011.](#)
- Immigrants were responsible for 28% of new U.S. businesses in 2011 and are now more than twice as likely as native-born Americans to start a business. [Open for Business: How Immigrants Are Driving Business Creation in the United States, PNA, August 2012.](#)
- From 1995 to 2005, over half of all Silicon Valley companies were founded by an immigrant. [America's Loss is the World's Gain. Kauffman Foundation, March 2009.](#)
- 76% of the patents from the top 10 patent-generating U.S. universities in 2011 had foreign-born inventors. Of these patents, 99% were in STEM fields. [Help Wanted: The Role of Foreign Workers in the Innovation Economy, PNA/ITIC/AEI, November 2012.](#)

- High-skilled immigrants pay an average of \$22,500 in state and federal taxes per year. [Immigration and American Jobs, Madeleine Zavodny, December 2011.](#)
- A just-released Brookings Institution report found that among the 20 occupations most commonly filled by H-1B workers, wages were significantly higher in 17 of these occupations, and were comparable for the other three. The report also noted that U.S. STEM workers today earn a 25% compensation premium relative to non-STEM workers, and have seen earnings rise by 3% to 6% relative to all other U.S. occupations during the past decade. [H-1B Visas and the STEM Shortage, Brookings Institute, May 10, 2013.](#)

### **Companies have jobs open right now that simply cannot be filled.**

- There is full employment for U.S. STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) workers with advanced degrees, and some sectors are experiencing shortages of these highly skilled STEM professionals. [Help Wanted: The Role of Foreign Workers in the Innovation Economy, PNA/ITIC/AEI, November 2012.](#)
- Microsoft currently has more than 6,300 job openings and more than half are for engineers, software developers, and researchers. [Testimony of Brad Smith, General Counsel and Executive Vice President for Legal and Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Corporation, Senate Judiciary Committee, April 2013.](#)
- In March 2013, ten leading U.S. tech firms together had more than 26,000 job openings. [WHO'S HIRING? These 10 Tech Companies Have The Most Job Openings, Business Insider, March 2013.](#)
- A recent national survey found that two-thirds of organizations currently hiring full time staff are having difficulty recruiting for specific jobs, and scientists, engineers, and highly skilled technicians were cited as the top three most difficult positions to fill. [The Ongoing Impact of the Recession—Recruiting and Skill Gaps, SHRM, March 2013.](#)
- More than one in every four science and engineering firms report difficulty hiring. [An Economy that Works: Job Creation and America's Future, McKinsey Global Institute, June 2011.](#)
- By 2018 there will be more than 230,000 advanced degree STEM jobs that will not be filled even if every single new American STEM grad finds a job. [An Economy that Works: Job Creation and America's Future, McKinsey Global Institute, June 2011.](#)
- In the past decade STEM job growth was three times more than that of non-STEM job growth. STEM job growth is expected to be higher than any other occupation over the next ten years. [STEM: Good Jobs Now and for the Future, US Department of Commerce, July 2011.](#)

## **We are investing in our children and America's future.**

- STEM degrees aren't just for STEM jobs. Nearly two-thirds of those holding STEM undergraduate degrees work in non-STEM jobs like healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, financial services, and logistics. [STEM: Good Jobs Now and for the Future, US Department of Commerce, July 2011.](#)
- All of the 30 fastest-growing occupations in the next decade will require at least some background in STEM. [Why STEM? Change the Equation. 2011.](#)
- Just 2 in 10 students who enter college earn a STEM degree. [STEM, Anthony Carnevale, Nicole Smith, and Michelle Melton, Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, October 2011.](#)
- ITI member companies have invested tens of millions of dollars in STEM education and workforce development initiatives, impacting the lives of students and workers in nearly every state. Our companies have also donated hardware and software, and in many cases volunteer in the classroom and assist in teacher training and certification. ITI STEM 2013 Report, May 2013 (anticipated).
- Recognizing that too few women and minorities are working in STEM, ITI member companies fund scholarships for qualified women and minorities, and work with groups like the Boys and Girls Clubs and Girls Scouts to help level the playing field for all who are interested in STEM. ITI STEM 2013 Report, May 2013 (anticipated).

## **Competing countries benefit from our broken system.**

- We educate them, but don't keep them. In the academic year 2010-11, 36% of all international students in the U.S. were in STEM fields, reflecting a 16% increase from the previous year. Yet, the United States sends an estimated 50,000 educated workers out of the country every year because of visa caps. [The Talent Drain, Pratistha Gyawali, AEI, July 2012.](#)
- Many of our trade partners – including Canada, Chile, and Singapore - have robust programs to attract and keep skilled immigrants. Singapore has created government agencies like Contact Singapore and The Singapore Talent Recruitment (STAR) Committee to entice skilled foreign-born workers. [Forget America, Immigrants With A Dream Are Moving To Chile, Business Insider, February 2012.](#)
- A highly skilled Indian national sponsored today for an employment-based immigrant visa could potentially wait for 70 years to receive a green card. A Chinese national sponsored today could wait two decades. [Waiting and More Waiting, National Foundation for American Policy, October 2011.](#)