

American Society for Engineering Education
Engineering Deans Institute (EDI)
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STEM Immigration Issues

Leah H. Jamieson (Purdue) and Gregory L. Fenves (UT Austin)

Decade+ Discussion of High-Skill Immigration to the U.S.

- Gathering Storm report
- Tom Friedman: “staple a green card to Ph.D. diplomas in engineering and science”
- Council on Competitiveness
- PCAST reports
- Letter to U.S. Congress from 150 university presidents (9/30/2012)

<http://www.renewoureconomy.org/index.php?q=150%20university%20presidents>



Why Is STEM Immigration Important?

- As a nation of immigrants, economic progress has been driven by talent
- Innovation and knowledge-based economy more important than ever
- Economic studies have shown impact of foreign born leaders in U.S. company formation, venture capital, patents, etc.
- International competitiveness

Key Issues

- Does STEM immigration undercut efforts to increase number of U.S. students pursuing STEM?

April 11, 2013 10:18 pm

US needs more home-grown engineers

From Sir James Dyson.

Sir, Karim Pakravan ([Letters, April 10](#)) is right to caution against the H1B visa programme. Yes, the US needs bright brains from across the world. But, it must nurture home-grown talent with an education system that promotes engineering.

- Addressing STEM immigration separately or as part of comprehensive immigration reform
- Temporary visas (H1B) or permanent residency (green card)
- Add to visas or reallocate existing visa quotas
- Level of graduate degree (MS or PhD)
- Quality of STEM education: is it important and how to measure?
- For-profit (proprietary) institutions; online degrees; non-degree credentials

Bills Considered in Last U.S. Congress

- STEM Jobs Act, HR 6429 (Smith, R-TX)
 - Failed in House vote
 - Reallocated “diversity visas”
 - Ph.D. and M.S.; requirements for eligible universities, included for-profit
- BRAINS Act, S. 3555 (Schumer, D-NY)
 - “Benefits to Research and American Innovation through Nationality Statutes Act of 2012”
 - Adds 55k visas; does not use “diversity visas”
 - M.S. or PhD degree
- ABBA Act, HR 6412 (Lofgren, D-CA)
 - “Attracting the Best and the Brightest Act of 2012”
 - Nearly identical to S. 3555

Gang of Eight Aiming To Unveil Immigration Deal Tuesday

Published April 15, 2013 / Fox News Latino



Boston Bombing Likely to Postpone Unveiling of Immigration Bill

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By [Humberto Sanchez](#) and [David Harrison](#)

Roll Call Staff

April 15, 2013, 8:20 p.m.

Bipartisan immigration overhaul legislation may not be released until at least Wednesday out of respect for the tragic events that took place during the Boston Marathon on Monday.

Details Of Immigration Bill Revealed, More High-Skilled Visas And Employer Fees



GREGORY FERENSTEIN

The New York Times

Senators Set to Unveil Immigration Bill

By JULIA PRESTON

Published: April 16, 2013

WASHINGTON – A sweeping immigration bill that a bipartisan group of eight senators plans to introduce on Tuesday seeks not only to fix chronic problems in the system and bring an estimated 11

The legislation would give employers in technology and science fields tens of thousands of new temporary and permanent resident visas annually, which they have been urgently seeking for tech workers and foreign graduates with advanced degrees from American universities. It immediately raises current annual caps on temporary high-skilled visas, known as H-1B, to 110,000 from 65,000, while adding 5,000 more of those visas for the foreign graduates. The cap would gradually rise to 180,000 annually.

Bill Length: 0(1500 pages)

Distinguished Panel of Experts

Jeremy Robbins

Director, Partnership for a
New American Economy;
Policy Advisor and Special Counsel
in the Office of the Mayor



Russell T. Harrison

Legislative Representative
for Grassroots Activities
IEEE-USA



Mark Regets

Senior Analyst
National Science Foundation



Questions and Discussion

What Deans Can Do

- Negotiations on the bill are likely to take place with possible action in this session of Congress.
- Industry is doing substantial lobbying, but universities need to emphasize the importance reform for STEM degree holders.
- Engage your advisory council and partner companies.
- Deans can contact their Senators and Representative to convey your views. Email to Member and/or staff is the most effective.
- Deans may want to coordinate with university federal relations staff. Many federal relations staff of AAU universities have engaged on the issue in fall 2012.