

July 10, 2008

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## It's About Innovation: Fact of the Week

### Highly Educated Professionals Drive U.S. Economic Growth

*Did you know...*

According to a new report from Harvard and Duke Universities and the University of California, Berkeley, highly educated science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) foreign graduates contribute significantly to U.S. economic growth and global competitiveness. The report found that:

- Out of the over 2,000 companies interviewed, more than 25 percent reported at least one key founder as an immigrant;
- The top immigrant founders for U.S. engineering and technology companies were from India;
- California, New Jersey and Michigan had the greatest percentage of companies founded by immigrants; and
- Most immigrant founders had strong backgrounds in STEM-related fields, while many immigrant founders entered on either an F-1 student visa or an H-1B visa.

As the report concludes, highly educated professionals are making important positive contributions to our national economic development – and America should welcome them.

### ***Congress Must Enact Reforms to the EB Green Card and H-1B Visa Systems This Year!***

To read the report, "Skilled Immigration and Economic Growth," visit [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1141190](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1141190).

To learn more about highly educated immigration, visit [www.competeamerica.org](http://www.competeamerica.org).

*Compete America (www.competeamerica.org) is a coalition of corporations, educators, research institutions and trade associations concerned about legal, employment-based immigration and committed to ensuring that the United States has the highly educated workforce necessary to ensure continued innovation, job creation and leadership in a worldwide economy.*