

International STEM Students Are Key to American Innovation and the US Economy

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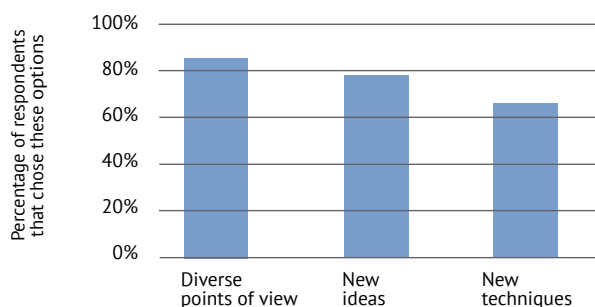
Members of Congress should support the “Keep STEM Talent Act” (HR 5924), which would enable international STEM graduate students to both state their intent to stay in the US and pursue careers post-graduation and provide them a path to a green card if they secure job offers from US employers after graduation.

International Students Benefit US Economy

- Even with the impacts of the pandemic, international students contributed nearly \$28.4 billion to the US economy and supported more than 306,308 jobs during the 2020-21 academic year.
- As of 2018, immigrants had founded more than half of privately-held billion-dollar startup companies in the United States, with 21 having a founder who first came to the United States as an international student.

International Students Benefit US Science

Key Contributions of International Students and Scholars According to American Physicists



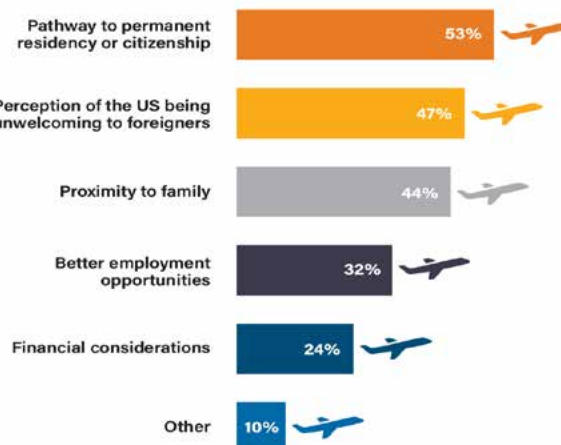
Source: APS Building America's STEM Workforce report

US Losing Ability to Attract Global Talent

More than 80% of international physics graduate students and early career professionals currently in the US are considering, or have considered, pursuing a career in a country other than the US.

Reported factors in considering pursuing a career in a country other than the US

Percentage of respondents that chose the following options



Results from a September 2021 APS survey of more than 350 international physics graduate students currently in the US and early career professionals, i.e., APS members who are PhD graduates with fewer than five years of experience, who are working in the United States, and are holding or have held US visas.

The “Keep STEM Talent Act” Puts Us on the Right Track

- International students interested in pursuing STEM degrees in the US can be denied F-1 student visas if they declare an intent to live and work in the US upon graduation. After earning their degrees, these students can face difficulties in becoming lawful permanent residents and be stuck on temporary work visas for years.
- The “Keep STEM Talent Act” would address these issues by: (1) authorizing international students pursuing advanced STEM degrees in the US to express dual intent and legally declare their plan to pursue careers in the US post-graduation, and (2) exempting international students who earn advanced STEM degrees from US institutions and receive offers of employment from US companies from green card caps.
- With competition for the top international students growing, the “Keep STEM Talent Act” would help attract the best and brightest students to US universities and encourage them to become Americans and contribute their skill to our scientific enterprise.