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It's About Innovation: Fact of the Week

H-1B Critics Continue to Deny the Facts Need for Talent and the Positive Impact of H-1B Program on U.S. Job Growth are Well Documented

Contrary to the evidence, the Center for Immigration Studies continues to proclaim that there is no relationship between the need for professional talent and the high demand for H-1B visas. These claims come despite three studies released in March 2008 that provide ample evidence that H-1B visas are in high demand because of a shortage of workers in many high-skilled professions, and that the program actually helps create U.S. jobs.

1. The National Science Foundation found that the unemployment rate of U.S. scientists and engineers dropped to a record low of 2.5% in 2006.
2. National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP) providing solid evidence of the extensive quantity of high-skilled job openings in U.S. technology and defense industries. In its analysis of job openings at all companies in the Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500, NFAP concluded that major U.S. technology companies currently average more than 470 high-skilled job openings each, while U.S. defense companies average 1,265 openings in skilled positions.
3. NFAP also provided evidence that the hiring of skilled foreign professionals through the H-1B visa program has a positive impact on U.S. job growth. The Foundation's analysis found that for every H-1B position requested, U.S. technology companies showed an increase in employment of 5 workers. For technology firms with fewer than 5,000 employees, each H-1B position requested was associated with an increase in employment of 7.5 workers.

Facts don't lie – America's innovation economy is in dire need of skilled professionals if we are to stay competitive and keep jobs in the United States.

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

For a copy of the research cited above and to learn more about highly educated immigration, visit 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.