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September 6, 2007

It's About Innovation

Fact of the Week

Did you know ...

It's that time of year ... students across the country are heading back to school.

For many foreign students at American universities, this will be their last year before entering the job market. **Yet even though they will graduate as some of the world's top innovators, engineers and scientists – the U.S. government is likely to show them the door.**

Why? This year, the overall H-1B visa cap for highly educated foreign professionals were taken...IN ONE DAY. That meant that more than half of all the U.S.-based foreign students set to receive advanced degrees in math, science and engineering from American universities were shut out of the U.S. job market and lost to U.S. employers who badly need them.

These are American-trained innovators and job creators— and an important addition to the U.S. workforce. It makes no sense to educate them here and then send them abroad to compete against us.

It's time for Congress to fix the broken immigration system for highly educated foreign professionals. This includes streamlining the employment-based green card system and raising the cap on H-1B visas.

America cannot afford to wait for highly educated visa reform any longer.

For more information on how highly educated immigration benefits America, 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.

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