



*Did you know....*

## **Foreign-Born Scholars Chosen to Advise Obama Administration on Science and Technology**

### ***Compete America Applauds President for Strong Commitment to U.S. Science and Technology Leadership***

This week, President Obama chose three foreign-born scholars to serve on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST):

- **Mario Molina – Born in Mexico;** Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of California, San Diego and the Center for Atmospheric Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, as well as Director of the Mario Molina Center for Energy and Environment in Mexico City; Awarded the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering the threat that CFCs pose to the Earth's ozone layer, a major environmental breakthrough.
- **Barbara Schaal – Born in Germany;** Professor of Biology at Washington University in St Louis, Mo.; Vice President of the National Academy of Sciences, the first woman ever elected to that role.
- **Ahmed Zewail – Born in Egypt;** Professor of Chemistry and Physics at Caltech and Director of the Physical Biology Center; Awarded the 1999 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Also this week at the National Academy of Sciences, **President Obama strongly confirmed his belief in the power of science and technology to help America confront and conquer its greatest challenges**, calling for, among other initiatives, the United States to surpass its record investment in R&D, set in 1964 at the height of the space race, exceeding three percent of GDP. [Compete America applauds the President's commitment to research investments and to maintaining America's technological edge.](#)

**Shortsighted visa policies that push away highly educated foreign-born scientists and engineers will only aid the economic development of other nations and endanger America's own recovery and future.**

***Comprehensive immigration reform is long overdue – we urge action now and support efforts by the President and leaders of Congress to find a comprehensive solution this year.***

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.*