

# Sharpening Our Edge: Enhancing U.S. Competitiveness BY ATTRACTING AND RETAINING GLOBAL TALENT

**The best and brightest from around the world help fuel U.S. innovation and our economy despite comprising 6 percent of overall U.S. college enrollment.** International students and scholars provide domestic students with exposure to other countries and cultures — an essential component of career readiness in today's world. The national security, economic vitality, and workforce development of the United States will benefit from international students and scholars having streamlined visa processing and a pathway to a green card after graduation.

## International Students Strengthen the U.S. Economy



**One-quarter of U.S. start-up companies worth \$1B+**

have a founder who first came to the United States as an international student.<sup>1</sup>



International student enrollment contributed **\$42.9 billion** to the U.S. economy in the 2024 – 25 academic year.<sup>2</sup>



International student spending created or supported **355,736 U.S. jobs.** That's one job for every three international students.<sup>3</sup>

## Global Talent Helps Fuel American Innovation



**40% of U.S. Nobel Prize winners** in chemistry, medicine, and physics since 2000 have been immigrants.<sup>4</sup>



42% of the founders of **top AI companies studied in the United States** as an international student.<sup>5</sup>



An international student invented the **technology that makes Zoom and FaceTime possible.**<sup>6</sup>

## Losing Talent Hurts America's Interests



A Turkish international student was unable to stay after graduation. He took his ideas to China, **enabling Huawei to lead in 5G technology and secure 10 times more patents** than its closest competitor.<sup>7</sup>



More than half of international students in the United States pursue STEM fields of study<sup>9</sup> and **70 percent of full-time graduate students in AI-related fields are international students.**<sup>10</sup>



**Not enough American students graduate with the STEM skills** needed to meet the demands of the 21st-century knowledge economy.<sup>8</sup>



Enrolling more international students leads to an increase in the number of STEM bachelor's degrees **awarded to U.S. students.**<sup>11</sup>