

A large crowd of diverse students is seen from a high angle, walking through a grand, ornate stone archway. The students are dressed in casual attire, and the scene is filled with movement and energy. The archway is highly detailed with carvings and patterns. The background shows more of the crowd and some greenery.

**VISAS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND
SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES:**

**BALANCING SECURITY AND
ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS**

APRIL 2005

A REPORT BY:
**BAY AREA SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CONSORTIUM (BASIC)
BAY AREA ECONOMIC FORUM**

Message from the Chairman

Foreign students and scientific colleagues have always been a key ingredient of innovation in the U.S., and the Bay Area in particular. They have provided a significant component to our sources of talent, both as students or visitors, and sometimes as immigrants. As markets in developing countries explode, that interchange has become even more critical to our success, but we are no longer the only game in town to attract the most promising talent. While the need for measured improvements in security is clear, we need to re-evaluate our risk acceptance posture to make sure that needless measures do not damage our ability to compete as a region and a nation.

On a more personal note, having come to the United States as an exchange student, and later an immigrant, the United States was a beacon for scientific and technological leadership. That beacon is dimming as we discourage and exclude students, scientists and technologists who now have more choices than ever in where and how to conduct leading edge research and development. This is a critical time for our region and nation to re-demonstrate its leadership in innovation. We must prudently balance the need for security with our need to remain leaders in science and technology, and increasingly, the business and competitiveness that goes with it.

Robert J.T. Morris, Ph.D.

Chairman

Bay Area Science and Innovation Consortium (BASIC)

VISAS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES: BALANCING SECURITY AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

Since 9/11 America's immigration procedures have tightened, and understandably so. Porous borders make for weak security, and there is an indisputable need to screen for terrorists and track potential security risks. The implementation of new immigration procedures, however, is having the unintended consequence of restricting scientific exchanges involving international scholars, researchers and students, with negative long-term implications for the San Francisco Bay Area's research enterprise and its technology-led economy.

The Bay Area's ability to create new technologies, products and business concepts contributes importantly to the United States' ability to attract investment, generate jobs and sustain a prosperous economy. Its continued capacity to innovate depends on a diverse and creative workforce, and an aggregation of intellectual capital that sets it apart from its global competitors. Technology companies in particular rely heavily on personnel from China, India and other nations. Reflecting the contribution that these scientists, technologists and business leaders are making to the region's economy and capacity to innovate, approximately one-third of technology start-ups in Silicon Valley have been launched by immigrant entrepreneurs.

For many of these business and technology leaders, higher education has been the bridge. Universities serve as magnets for global talent. A high proportion of the foreign nationals now working in Bay Area companies first came to the region as students, earned advanced degrees and remained to make major contributions to the economy. Surveys conducted by AnnaLee Saxenian of UC Berkeley show that nearly 80% of Mainland Chinese, nearly 80% of Taiwanese, and almost 55% of Indians working in Silicon Valley first attended school in the United States.

Global competition in the 21st century will increasingly focus on human capital. In an era of growing competition for jobs, investment and economic leadership, the ability to attract and retain this human capital constitutes a key competitive advantage. For the moment, the US, California and the Bay Area have that edge; but it is increasingly at risk, as other nations compete for the best global talent.

President Bush and bipartisan congressional leaders are considering legislation to create a new guestworker program to facilitate entry into the U.S. by Mexicans to fill agricultural and other low-wage service jobs. These jobs are important. It is an anomaly, however, that while efforts are underway to lower entry barriers for relatively unskilled labor, it has become more difficult for foreign scientists and graduate students to travel to the United States for activities that directly support the technology sector on which the nation's economic leadership depends.

In response to growing concern, the State Department has been working to address these problems. Nevertheless, the visa process remains discouraging for many foreign visitors whose presence would benefit the U.S., making this an issue where ongoing public and federal attention is needed.

International Student Profile

In 2002-03 more than 586,000 foreign students were enrolled in U.S. institutions. With more institutions of higher education than all but nine countries in the world, California is a major destination. Students from India, China and Korea constitute a growing share of this population, and together students from these countries plus Japan account for 40% of all foreign students in the United States. Nearly half of these students are concentrated in three fields: business and management, engineering, and mathematics and computer science. Particularly in science and engineering at the graduate level, foreign students provide an important pool of teaching assistants to support U.S. undergraduates, as American students are not applying for graduate education in these fields in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of the academic community or the economy.

Despite the large number of foreign students in the United States, the U.S. share of the global market for higher education has been falling since 1999. Some of this is explained by cost and competition, but a growing part of the explanation lies in visa and immigration procedures instituted since the events of September 11, 2001.

Visa Bottlenecks

The causes of the visa bottleneck for students and scholars predate 9/11, but have been significantly exacerbated by it. A February 2004 report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) evaluated how long it takes for a science student or scholar from another country to obtain a visa, and the factors contributing to that length of time. The report was stimulated by growing concern that the United States is losing top international students to other countries due to delays in the visa process.

The GAO found that a major variable in the time it takes to process a visa application is whether or not the applicant must undergo a security check (Security Advisory Opinion, or SAO) known as Visa Mantis, which is designed to protect against sensitive security transfers. This is the most common form of security check applied to science-related applicants. Since 2000, the number of Visa Mantis checks has increased dramatically, from 1000 to 18,500.

Since 9/11, all applicants for a non-immigrant visa are also required to personally appear and be interviewed at a US consular office, a requirement that took effect in August 2003. The resulting higher volume of interviews has led to marked increases in interviews conducted in Russia and India, but less so in China where 70% of visa applicants were already being interviewed. The State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs has recently directed that its posts give priority to students and exchange visitors when scheduling visa interviews. Current tracking systems within the Federal Government, however, do not separately document student or scientific applicants, and it is difficult to determine whether this change has led to meaningful improvements.

One of the two major delay factors identified in the GAO report is the waiting time required for an interview, which is generally 2-3 weeks but can often be four weeks or longer. At one consular post in India the wait in the summer of 2003 was up to four months. At another post in China the wait for an interview was 5-6 weeks. The travel time and expense required for applicants

to obtain their interviews can pose additional barriers. In Brazil, for example, appearing for a five-minute interview can entail a 1000-mile journey and significant expense to reach the nearest U.S. consulate.

Inefficiency in processing visa applications – which after the initial interview in the applicant's home country are referred to Washington, DC for clearance by the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI – is a further cause of delay. Chokepoints include not only inter-agency communications, but fragmented communications between the State Department and its overseas posts. On average it takes 67 days for the typical security check to be processed.

Tightened but Inefficient Visa Processing is Having Unforeseen Impacts

Several examples, from the US and the Bay Area, illustrate the impacts of these bottlenecks:

- ❖ According to the GAO report, visa problems are making it difficult for former Soviet Union scientists to participate in US Government-sponsored conferences and exchanges, a number of which are critical to US non-proliferation goals. Scientific research projects with Russia and the former Soviet Union have been delayed or prevented due to visa barriers.
- ❖ Because of visa processing problems, Chinese delegates were unable to attend a major international conference at Fermi Lab in Chicago, a significant embarrassment for the U.S. Major international scientific conferences are now at risk of leaving the United States, and important scientific collaborations from which the United States could benefit may not occur.
- ❖ In March 2004, foreign-born students working at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory elected not to attend the American Physical Society conference in Toronto out of concern that they could face delays of as long as three months when attempting to return.

Visa denials are an issue, but more often the problem is an extended delay in processing, which can take as long as nine months. The impacts are being felt unevenly. In a November 2003 survey by the Institute of International Education, nearly half of the institutions surveyed (46%) had experienced drops in international student enrollments, a change primarily attributed to the visa process. The same survey in November 2004 showed a further 2.4% drop in enrollments, with an even steeper decline of 4.1% in California.

Graduate and Research Positions Are Most Heavily Impacted

A February 2004 survey by the Association of International Educators (NAFSA), the American Council on Education, the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) found that nearly half (47%) of the 250 responding institutions had experienced a decline in international graduate *applications*. More than half of those were at research institutions, where almost 60% reported declines. Nine of the 25 leading research institutions that have historically enrolled the most foreign students reported drops of 30% or more.

This decline is continuing, though its rate has slowed. Another NAFSA survey in November 2004 found that international graduate *enrollments* had fallen at nearly half (48%) of the universities with graduate programs. Among schools with the highest concentration of overseas students, nearly two-thirds reported declines. Significantly, 37% of reporting institutions also saw declines in the number of *continuing* graduate students from overseas; more than half (56%) of institutions with the highest enrollment of foreign students saw such declines.

The most recent national survey, by the Council of Graduate Schools, shows that graduate applications for the 2005-2006 academic year have dropped by a further 5%. This follows a 28% fall in applications last year. Nearly 60% of graduate institutions reported declines from 2004 levels.

Engineering appears to be the most heavily impacted field, with 40% of universities with large overseas enrollments reporting declines. Applications to engineering programs for academic year 2005-2006 have declined by 7% over 2004, and to business programs by 8%. After peaking in 2000-2001, the number of foreign students enrolled in graduate physics programs has also declined, with two-thirds of Ph.D.-granting departments and almost half of masters programs reporting that accepted foreign students were unable to attend because of visa problems.

Exchanges with China are Experiencing the Biggest Decline

The 2004 NAFSA surveys found that nearly half of the responding universities (48%) had experienced a drop in *applications* from China. The falloff was again most dramatic at the research institutions that enroll the most foreign students. All of those institutions reported declines in applications, with most reporting a more severe drop in Chinese applications than for international graduate applicants generally. Thirteen reported a drop of 30% or more, while four experienced a drop of 50% or more. NAFSA's November 2004 survey found 35% of universities reporting fewer Chinese *enrollments*, with 36% reporting declining enrollments from India. Applications for the 2005-2006 academic year show a further decline of 13% for students from China and 9% from India.

While exchanges with China and India are the most heavily impacted the effects of current visa policy are widespread. Indonesia, the world's largest Islamic nation and a leader in Southeast Asia, is a case in point. According to Singapore's *Straits Times*, in 2003 only 1,333 Indonesian students were granted visas to study in the United States, down sharply from 6,500 in 2000. In an ironic twist, the number of Indonesian students approved for study in China (a country where Indonesia has historically had weaker relations) grew to 2,563, a jump of 51%.

Undergraduate Education is less Affected

The February 2004 NAFSA survey found that the decline in international applications was less pronounced for undergraduate students. Of 382 responding institutions, 36% reported a decline, while 29% reported an increase, and 25% said their numbers had not changed. In November 2004 NAFSA found that the number of campuses reporting gains and losses in undergraduate *enrollment* was about even, but 44% of all universities, and 54% of universities with the largest foreign enrollments, reported declines in *continuing* undergraduates.

NAFSA's survey of 147 English as a Second Language (ESL) schools found that slightly over half (54%) had seen a drop in *applications*. Another survey in 2003 by the Institute of International Education found similar results, with a 40% decline in *enrollments* over two years. ESL is important as a precursor to continued work in higher education. California hosts more intensive English students (13,000) than any other state.

Impacts at Bay Area Universities

These impacts are particularly significant in the Bay Area. From 2003-2004, the number of foreign students applying to Stanford's graduate programs fell from 9,879 to 9,020. According to the San Jose Mercury News, the preliminary count of 2005 overseas applicant to Stanford is 7,734. In the same period, international applications to UC Berkeley for graduate programs declined 27%. Since 2002 overseas applications to Berkeley have dropped from 10,544 to 8,229.

Rising tuition costs and growing international competition partly explain the declines. The principal explanation, however, lies in the visa process. A March 2004 survey of visa holders at Berkeley conducted by the Graduate Dean found that 60% of responding undergraduates, graduate students, visiting scholars, faculty and postdoctoral fellows had experienced delays at US consulates or embassies; 59% had had to alter travel plans to or from the US; 58% had experienced delays at the US port of entry; and 42% reported problems with visits by family members. 46% of respondents in the fields of science, technology, mathematics and English, and 36% of respondents in life sciences reported that their research plans had been affected.

Problems that were reported included processing delays when returning to their home countries to have existing visas renewed, resulting in long waits before being able to return to their research or studies in the U.S., and the long time required waiting for and traveling to mandatory personal interviews. Others reported that they were reluctant to travel home for family visits or job interviews because of delays of up to three months when attempting to re-enter the U.S. Similar delays were encountered by family members wanting to visit students or scholars in the US. Many respondents said that they would not choose to study in the United States again because of administrative burdens, humiliations endured in the visa process, and a perceived climate of hostility toward foreigners.

Another and very similar survey of graduate students conducted by Dr. Robert Price, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at UC Berkeley, found that 69% had decided not to attend international conferences, and 61% had decided to forego visits to family in their home countries because of visa issues. The survey also confirmed that a high proportion of post-doctoral fellows had difficulty re-entering the country, and that the US environment for foreign students and researchers was perceived as being increasingly hostile. These impacts are particularly significant for Berkeley, where more than 50% of post-doctoral fellows are non-US nationals.

Economic Concerns

Beyond the personal toll on individuals and their families, barriers to international exchanges entail significant economic costs, particularly in regions such as the Bay Area with a high concentration of educational institutions and extensive global connections. In 2002-03 over 580,000 international students studied in the United States, making higher education the fifth largest US export, and bringing more than \$12 billion into the U.S. economy through tuition, living expenses and related costs. California was the leading host state, with more than 80,000 foreign students.

The Bay Area hosts the largest research community in the nation, with five national laboratories, five research universities, and many corporate laboratories. Four Bay Area campuses – UC Berkeley (#2), UC San Francisco (#9), UC Davis (#21) and Stanford (which ranks in the top five and hosts 1600-1800 visiting scholars and researchers each year) are among the leading sites for international scholars in the nation. Thirty-two percent of graduate students at Stanford (from 87 countries) and 21% of graduate students at UC Berkeley (from 58 countries) come from overseas. Overall, more than 25,000 foreign students study at Bay Area colleges, universities and professional schools, contributing as much as \$570 million to the regional economy. At a time when educational budgets are under pressure, declining levels of overseas enrollment are a cause for concern.

While science and education are heavily impacted by visa issues, businesses are also affected. The FY 2004-2005 quota of 65,000 H-1B visas, used for skilled temporary workers from overseas, was filled on the day the visas came available (October 1, 2004). In November 2004 Congress passed legislation that increased the number of H-1B visas by 20,000 for foreign nationals who had received advanced degrees in the United States. While this was a positive step, it may not be adequate to meet industry's requirements.

Businesses engaged in international trade and investment are also impacted. A recent survey conducted by eight leading national and bi-national business associations estimates that US companies suffered losses of over \$30 billion between July 2002 and March 2004 due to denials and delays in the processing of business visas. Problems cited included delays and unpredictability in securing visas for travel by foreign partners, customers and employees, leading to project postponement, increased costs, lost sales, and the need to relocate employees or business activities such as testing, negotiations and exhibitions offshore. Applicants from China, India and Russia trying to conduct business in the US appear to have the greatest difficulty with timely processing, followed by Malaysia, Indonesia and Korea.

Visa revalidation problems affect businesses as well as students. For example, business representatives from trading partners holding E-1 visas, and foreign investors in the US holding E-2 visas must return to their home countries to file their papers, resulting in waits of as much as 4-6 weeks. This impacts business globally, including partners in Europe and Japan.

According to the Travel Industry Association of America, difficulties in the visa process (the requirement for personal interviews, and increased documentation, processing, and costs) have impacted international tourism to the US. This is a significant issue for San Francisco, with its

large tourist industry. Travel industry representatives report the cancellation of individual trips, conferences and sporting events, and their relocation to overseas venues that do not suffer from similar barriers or delays. Because of intensified security procedures that cause international travelers to miss connecting flights, Miami International Airport's status as a regional air hub for Latin America is being challenged, as travelers from Central and South America increasingly avoid the U.S.; Spain's national airline, Iberia Airways, recently closed its Miami hub between Europe and Central America, in order to avoid U.S. delays.

While no comprehensive information is available, impacts in the health care industry appear to mirror those for other sectors. According to one estimate produced by the District Export Councils of the United States, the medical community is losing at least \$1 billion annually in lost outpatient care due to visa issues. Many foreigners come to the US for complex (and expensive) medical procedures. Just as overseas students who pay full tuition are a significant revenue source to universities, the loss of foreign patients to medical institutions can have a disproportionate financial impact. One response by leading medical centers such as the Mayo Clinic and John Hopkins has been to move the most affected facilities and patient services overseas.

An Important Issue for Technology and Scientific Research

Foreign-born students receive more than half of doctoral engineering and mathematics degrees awarded in the United States, and more than 40% of doctorates awarded in computer science. Many university departments depend on these students to sustain themselves. Foreign-born individuals, in turn, account for one in five scientists and engineers in the United States.

The Bay Area's large scientific community particularly benefits from international student programs and joint research with overseas counterparts. Access to these visitors enriches the region's knowledge base and sharpens its competitive and technological capacity. The diminution of scientific exchanges has potentially negative commercial implications for the Bay Area's long-run leadership in technology. Accumulating evidence suggests that, with increased reporting and tracking requirements since 9/11, the United States is perceived as a less welcoming place for foreign nationals. The consequences are magnified by the strong economic growth underway in both China and India, where new opportunities are attracting an increasing number of educated and technically-trained scientists and engineers to return to their home countries. This may inadvertently strengthen overseas competitors, and add to the already strong pressures on U.S. companies to move business activities offshore.

Political Considerations

Because study in the United States has historically been an attractive option for students from around the world, generations of overseas students who have passed through U.S. institutions now constitute a significant reservoir of goodwill for the United States. More than fifty of the world leaders contacted by President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell after 9/11 to join the fight against global terrorism had either studied in the United States or had visited the United States early in their careers through the International Visitor Program. Apart from private students, foreign governments continue to send large numbers of students abroad for both long-term and short-term education and training.

Many senior officials in China's finance, foreign affairs, science and technology, and education ministries, for example, hold degrees from foreign institutions or have studied abroad, a figure that in some ministries has been reported as high as 75%. In the long run, the curtailment of foreign students at U.S. institutions may erode this important political resource and the interpersonal relationships that are at its core.

Issues Needing Resolution

To remedy this situation, US visa procedures must be refined and streamlined. The following specific reforms should be considered:

- ❖ Reduce the number of fields on the Technology Alert List to narrow the focus to those where there is a credible and serious risk or threat. Originally developed during the Cold War to restrict the flow of technology to the former Soviet Union and other communist countries, since 9/11 the Technology Alert List has been tightened and more aggressively enforced.
- ❖ The requirement that all applicants for non-immigrant visas, including students, scholars and scientists, appear at U.S. consulates for a personal interview, when combined with inadequate staffing by consular personnel, is another bottleneck. Case-by-case waiver by consular officers of personal appearance, under specified conditions, would streamline processing. Staff resources at the Department of State and the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service must also be sufficient to handle the increased workload, improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary delays. Improved guidance regarding criteria and increased discretion regarding its application should be given to consular officers, to ensure that visa denials are not unjustified or arbitrary.
- ❖ Frequent visitors to the United States, with a record of prior visa approvals, should receive expedited processing.
- ❖ In the summer of 2004 the Visa Revalidation Program, under which holders could revalidate their visas in the United States (St. Louis), was terminated. As a result, visa holders are now required to reapply for their visa in their home country, with the risk of long delays. Visas should be open to revalidation by the Department of State in the United States, without the necessity for travel to the applicant's home country for reissuance.
- ❖ Databases and technology used by the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI should be modernized and integrated to more effectively track pending visa cases and reduce or eliminate communication-related processing delays. Those agencies should also consider the creation of a centralized interagency clearinghouse, as a technical body to review Security Advisory Opinions.

Legislation – S. 455, the American Competitiveness Through International Openness Now Act of 2005 - introduced in the current (2005) session of Congress by Senators Coleman and Bingaman addresses many of these issues. The bill calls for development of a strategic plan at the federal level for enhancing access by foreign students, scholars, scientists and exchange visitors to study and exchange activity in the United States, and prescribes amendments to current law to facilitate the process.

Specific elements of the bill include four-year multiple-entry visas for international students studying in the U.S. and reciprocally for U.S. students studying abroad; more timely and transparent adjudication of student visas; a refined visa policy to focus less time and energy on people who pose no risk to the U.S. and more time and energy on those who do; improved inter-agency coordination; reduced clerical burdens on universities; and the development of new data on visa processing to pinpoint remaining problems.

Global Talent and Competitive Advantage

Because of insecurity since 9/11 and subsequent dysfunction in US visa processes, foreign universities are now more attractive to international students, scholars and scientists, many of whom have historically looked first to the US. Emerging international leaders, who should be nurtured as future US friends and allies, are at risk of being turned away or marginalized, and technologists who could one day be launching the next round of startups in Silicon Valley are increasingly seeking career opportunities outside the United States. Countries such as the UK, Canada and Australia that have competitive research programs, national strategies for recruiting international students, and expedited visa procedures are exploiting this shift. Through the Bologna Accord, European universities are also making it easier for students to move between countries, increasing the attractiveness of a European education. In a highly competitive global economy, these trends can't be taken lightly.

A Sustained Effort is Needed to Recover Lost Ground

Our nation's security needs can't be second-guessed. But three years after the shock of 9/11, our immigration procedures must become more efficient, sophisticated and practical. With regard to students, scholars and scientists in particular, they need to become less indiscriminate and more targeted. The State Department appears to recognize this challenge, and has begun to take remedial steps. Technology upgrades are underway, more consular officers have been hired, and the processing time for Visa Mantis clearances and student visas has dropped (delays related to the personal interview process, however, remain a problem.) In February 2005 one major issue affecting foreign students was addressed when the validity of a Visa Mantis clearance was extended for the duration of an academic program, or up to four years for students and two years for working scientists, making it easier to remain in the United States for the duration of a work or study program. Previously, clearances were valid for only one year, making participation in multi-year courses or projects difficult. A pilot program for China and India is also being considered for collecting SEVIS fees (which relate to the federal program to collect information on non-immigrant foreign student and exchange program participants), another issue that has impacted applications for study in the U.S.

On the business front, the State Department is attempting to facilitate business travel from China to the United States (more information is available on its China Business Travel Line at 202-663-3198, or through BusinessVisa@state.gov.) Temporary business (B-1) and tourism (B-2) visas between the U.S. and China have also been extended from six months to twelve months, while Visa Mantis clearance for exchange visitors temporary workers, and intracompany transferees has been extended to cover the duration of their activity, or up to two years.

Still, the visa process that many foreign students, scientists and business travelers are required to undergo is discouraging, and in a relatively short time the U.S. has slipped from being the destination of choice for international students, to one that is perceived as difficult and unwelcoming. The fact that graduate applications for the 2005 academic year have continued to drop, despite recent improvements in the visa process, points to a growing capacity to compete by educational institutions abroad, and continuing problems in the U.S. system. To resolve this issue and make up for lost ground, including communicating abroad that international students are welcome in the United States and that the entry process is reasonable, a continuing and sustained effort is needed.

The doors of the US must remain open to the best and the brightest from around the world, who helped build Silicon Valley and the Bay Area into a global economic powerhouse. From agricultural workers from Jalisco to Ph.D. researchers from Asia, the nation, California and the Bay Area benefit from the international exchange of people, their skills and ideas. With improved policies and procedures, this should not be inconsistent with our legitimate concern for better security.

Research and Analysis

This report was prepared for BASIC and the Bay Area Economic Forum by Dr. Sean Randolph, President & CEO of the Bay Area Economic Forum. An early edition was circulated in electronic form to Federal Government leaders in August 2004. This report revises and updates that document to reflect the most current information available, and areas where either progress has been made or where further attention is required.

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“If we want to maintain our lead in innovation, the nation’s scientific community needs access to the world’s best talent, including that which comes from overseas. Significant problems in the current visa process for foreign students, scholars and scientists are negatively impacting the research community – at universities, national laboratories and businesses. If we are serious about technological leadership, fixing these problems is a priority.”

**Steven Chu, Ph.D., Nobel Laureate
Director
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
BASIC Board Director**

“Students, researchers and scientists from around the world have made a critical contribution to Silicon Valley and its ability to develop innovative technologies. Keeping this pipeline open will be essential both to university programs such as Stanford’s and to the private sector’s ability to grow and compete in global markets.”

**John L. Hennessy, Ph.D.,
President
Stanford University
Bay Area Economic Forum Board Director**

“Streamlining of the visa process is essential for making the Bay Area the center of nanotechnology in the world. Human capital is a key enabler of long-term success in this field. Talent from overseas is indispensable to American science and engineering and makes significant contributions to the U.S. economy by creating intellectual property and hundreds of thousands of jobs. If we cannot attract – and retain – foreign-born talent our capacity to innovate will be limited and we will be exporting our innovations long before the first products are developed.”

**Larry Bock
Executive Chairman
Nanosys**



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